

POSTER INSIDE

Bungo Stray Dogs &
Hibike! Euphonium

otaku

A S I A

otakuasia.com

October-Nov 2016

Php 100

文豪ストレイドッグス

BUNGO STRAY DOGS

KAWAII ISSUE | KAWAII ISSUE | KAWAII ISSUE | KAWAII ISSUE | KAWAII ISSUE | KAWAII ISSUE | KAWAII ISSUE

ISSN: 2244-6524

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LIFESTYLE: YANAKIKU | AYANA TAKETATSU | ANIME & COSPLAY EXPO
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Table of Contents

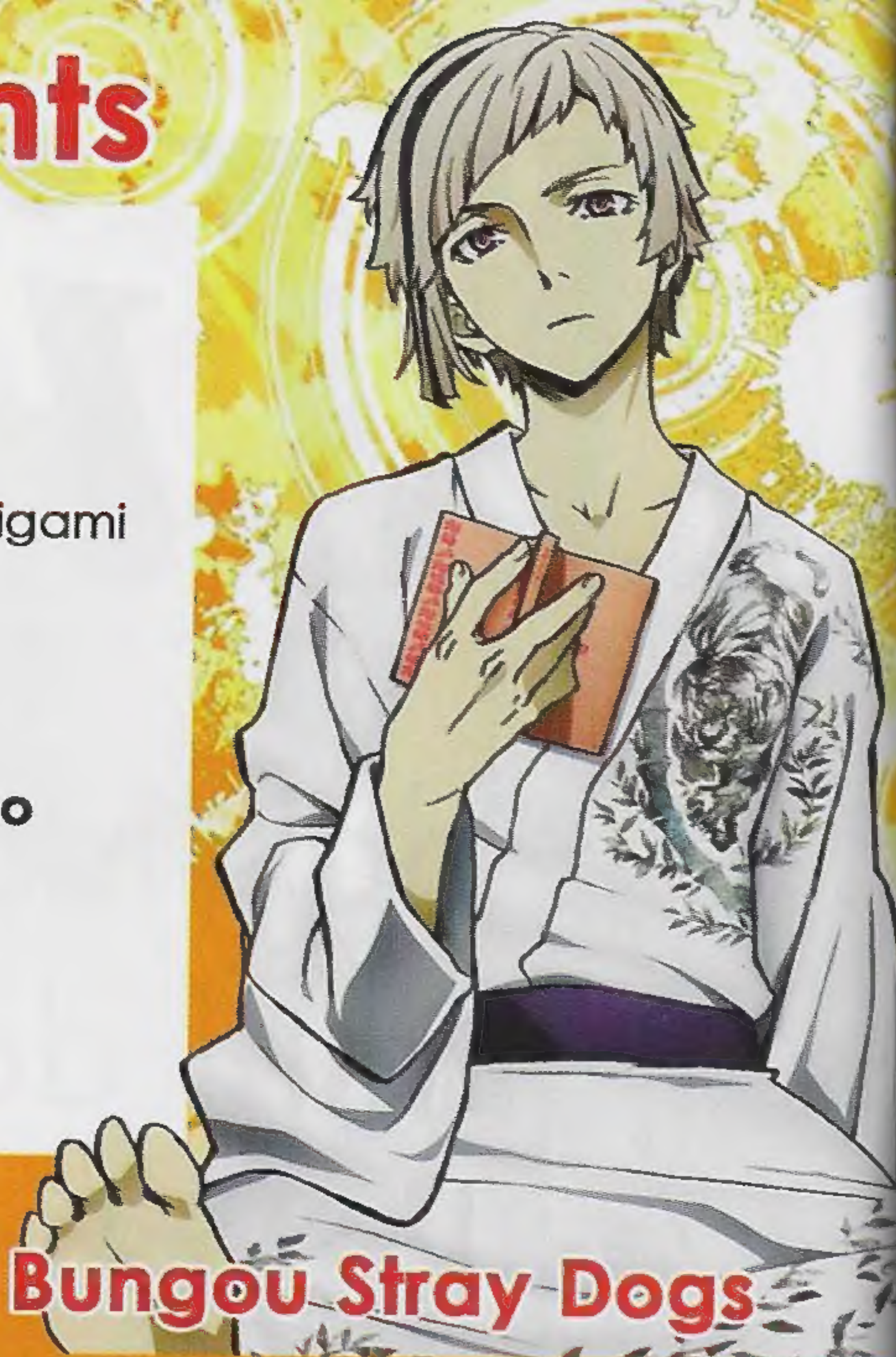
- 08 Editorial
- 10 Inbox
- 14 News

- 18 Bento Box: Outrageous Shakes
- 20 Otakugoodies: E2046-Neglection
- 22 Hooked Book: Mind Blowing Modular Origami
- 24 Just Japan: Kawaii Monster Cafe
- 26 Bento Box: Hello Kitty Cafe

- 28 Hooked Book: Patchwork Quilted Bags
- 30 J-Idol: Yanakiku
- 32 Con-in-Focus: Anime & Cosplay Expo**
- 36 Seiyuu's Mic: Ayana Taketatsu

- 38 Cosplayer: Yukari Nina Guerzon**

- 44 Otaku Life Hacks: Cosplay Hacks
- 46 Art of Otaku: Pattern & Effect Tutorial



50 Cover Feature: Bungou Stray Dogs



- 56 Character Bio: Ruby Kurosawa
- 58 Hot Anime: Love Live! Sunshine!!

- 60 Reviews:
 - 12-sai.: Chicchana Mune no Tokimeki 2
 - Mahou Shoujo Nante Mou Ii Desu Kara 2
 - Show by Rock!!#
 - Kaito Joker Season 4
 - Hibike! Euphonium 2
 - Ajin

- 72 Movie Reel: One Piece Film: Gold

- 74 Gamer's Arena:
 - Tohou Genso Rendo: Bullet Ballet
 - Demon Gaze 2
 - Gal Gun Double Peace
 - Mystic Messenger

- 82 Manga:
 - Kin-iro Mosaic
 - Monster Musume No Iru Nichijou
 - Saenai Hirono no Sodatekata
 - Udon no Kuni no Kiniro Kemari
 - 3-gatsu no Lion

- 88 Requests: Inu x Boku SS
 - Grimgar of Ash and Fantasy
- 90 Bitz: The Secret Life of Pets
- 92 O-kun Tales
- 94 Throwback: Futari wa Pretty Cure
 - Ojamajo Doremi
 - Tenchi Muyo!

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Cosplayer: Beru Kashiragu



As of writing, I have just watched the first episode of Bungou Stray Dogs. Just my luck, they started off with a filler arc that follows the light novel, Dazai and the Dark Era were we follow the last few days of Dazai's Mafia membership. I can't wait.

Don't let the cover fool you. We are in our Kawaii/ Magical Issue and following that theme is the Abilities of our characters in Bungou Stray Dogs. We have a lot of anime recommendations for you here from last season. We have also manga that have been adapted into anime lately. Mystic Messenger dominated this year's Cosplay Mania and our timelines. I wonder how long the hype will be when a new season is here.

We also have a review of The Secret Life of Pets as it opened in theaters not too long ago and we were looking forward to another bout of animal cosplays just as it was for Zootopia. But no? I would have wanted to see a Snowball one day.

This month we wrap things up with our Anime and Cosplay Expo event report. It was the first of its kind and we look forward to more of this event in the coming years from Cosplay.ph.

Hope to hear from you guys! Keep sending us requests, suggestions and fanarts over mail and Facebook, we love it!
- kandy



Notice us idol-bossu!!

Cosplay Academy was born! It's nice to see that events are having tutorials now as well. You're welcome *wink*

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OTAKU ASIA is a monthly magazine by PSICOM Publishing Inc., #6 Yale st. Cubao Quezon City. Issues are available on all major bookstores nationwide. Back issues are available online through otakuasia.com or psicom.ocnk.biz Printed in Philippines. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likeness thereof and all related media are trademark, owned and copyright of their respective owners.

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INBOX



Karen Garcia Salangsang

Gusto ko lang po mag thank you!!!! Super salamat po sa O-kun Fiesta 2, first time ko po maka attend nang as in, madaming cosplayer.
Namangha po talaga ako.
Thank You !!!

Sana maulit po ulit dahil sa inyo na inlove ako bigla (thanks also to Bishounen Society). Nakita ko sila magcosplay ng Touken Ranbu.
Na-starstruck aq kay Rai.
gwahaaa~ next O-kun fiesta aabangan q po ulit.
Thank you po!!!

-Hazel Camania

Yahallo minna-san!
Watashi wa akuma de shitsuji desu kara . Watashi wa Princess desu.
I really love your anime magazine Otaku Asia! Its so cool and it contains amazing contents that will fulfill every otaku's needs.

The animes featured in your mag are all interesting. I'm a fan of your monthly issues. Congrats for the success of your mag minna!
Ganbatte!

-Princess Beltran



Cyen Esclanda

I just wanna thank you for creating a wonderful magazine suitable for all ages. Your magazine is one of the reasons that keeps me going through all my obstacles and challenges especially schoolwork. Thank you very much..and I hope that you keep creating a wonderful mag that inspires everyone. Godbless po.

-Jonjie Renzo Sabado



Konnichiwa Otaku Asia!
I really like your December 2015-January 2016 issue. Btw, I wanna show you my drawing and it's Tomori Nao from Charlotte and I hope you like it.

Can you please feature SERVAMP and ReLIFE? I am currently watching it and I love the series! It's my first time here so more blessings to come and Ganbatte kudasai minna-san!

-Karl Magallanes

Hello! This is my traditional Cyber-punk drawing I drew few months back. It's probably my second to post an artwork here~ Hoping this could feature soon into you're next issue!

May more artists post more on their work to be featured later on~ More power to you Otaku Asia! Arigatou Gozaimashita~

-Myca Angelica





Hi Otaku Asia!!

Just wanna share my doodle here (with some of my favorite characters) I've been a fan of your mag for a long time!

A quick shout out to my buds! (Rica Cass and Novie! Yaaaayyy) Love you guys! Stay awesome Otaku Asia!!!!
*exploding brofist (that's how awesome you guys are!!)

-Mikaela Celo

Yoho Otaku Asia!! ^0^/
I love all your magazine..I want to show off my drawing of Yamada Ryu from Yamada and the 7 Witches ^^ I will always support you guyz and Always Stay Awesome!!! I LOVE ALL THE POSTERS!!! Please add Aura Kingdom in Gamers Arena...Have a very awesome day OTAKU ASIA !!



-Princess Esteban

Got Requests? Fanmail to shoutout?
Fanart to showoff?
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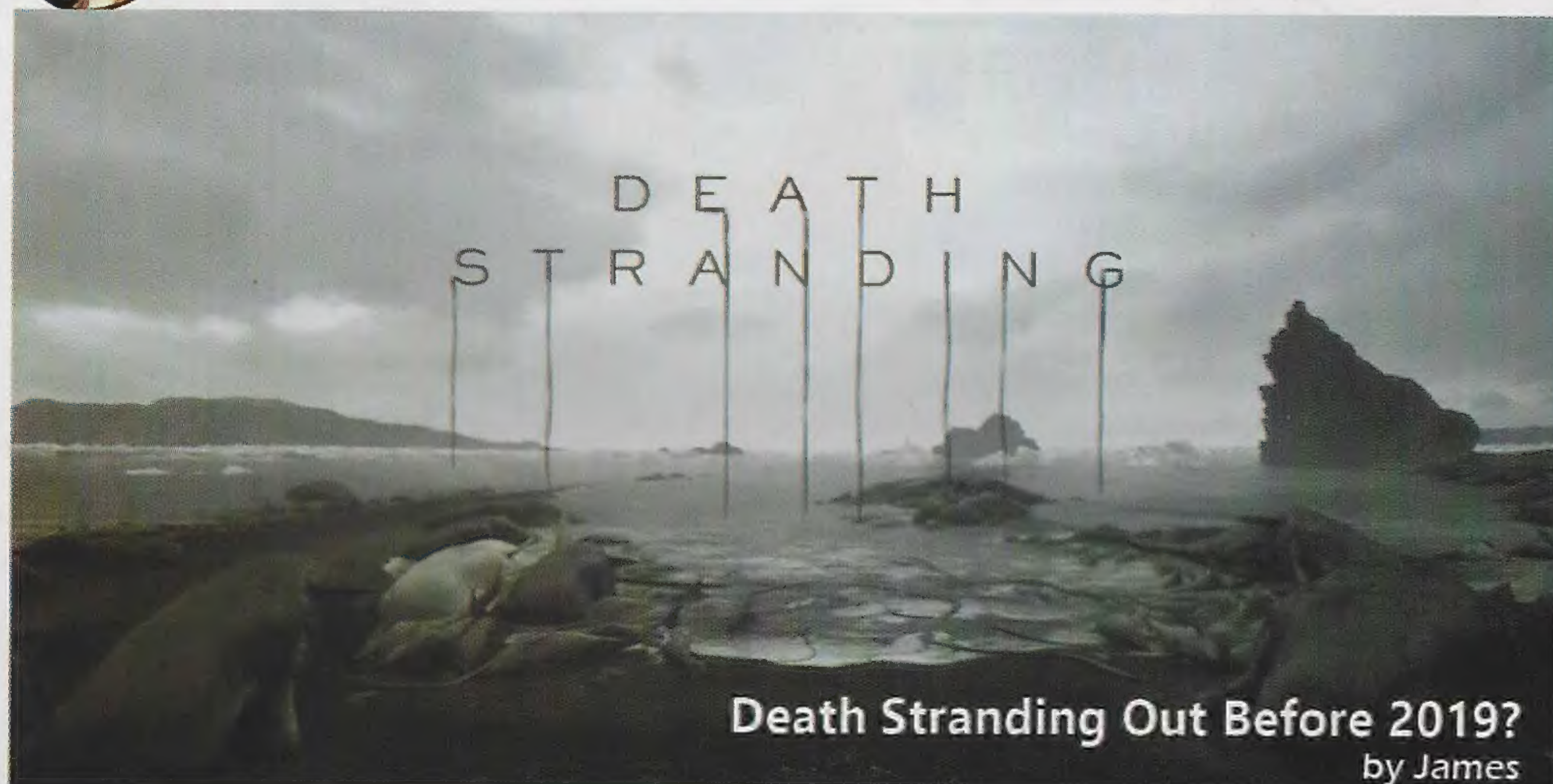
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Death Stranding Out Before 2019?

by James

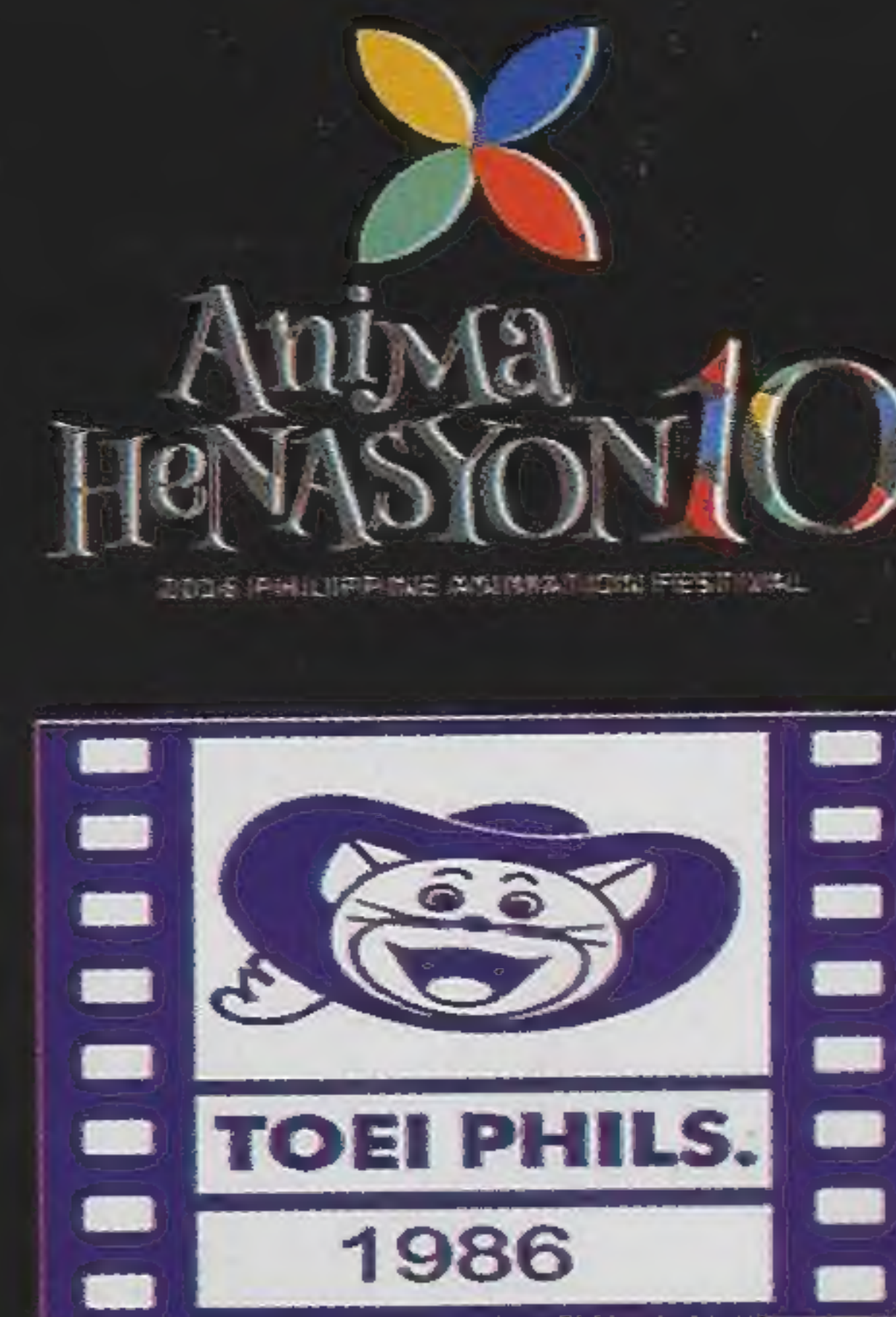


If you're a true Hideo Kojima fan, then you should've already seen the obscure trailer for his upcoming and still-obscure PS4 game *Death Stranding*. And if you're a true Hideo Kojima fan, then you should already be excited in being in Norman Reedus's shoes, if he has any. But according to a recent announcement, it seems as if you're going to have to be excited for the next two to three years, because the game will be coming out before 2019. But given the recent trends of game developers delaying their game, and knowing Kojima, the game would probably be released at a much later date.

To keep you stoked, here are a few little things Kojima has revealed about the game:

- The game will chiefly be a multiplayer online game, but can also be played solo.
- "It will be a different kind of online play than anything we've seen before" according to him.
- There will be a female protagonist, but she is yet to be cast.

So far so good, but so little is known. Nevertheless, that's better than none at all. While we are being teased as we get small bits and pieces of the whole, we are fully aware that the wait and the suspense will be all worth it in the end. Hopefully we get more updates as we inch closer to the release date, and hopefully the game does get released before 2019.



Toei Animation celebrates 30 years with a cosplay competition



Toei Animation Phils., Inc. is a 100% subsidiary of Toei Animation Co. Ltd., the largest animation company in Japan which is often referred as the Disney of the Orient.

Toei Phils. was established in 1986 thru a Memorandum of Agreement between Toei Animation Co. Ltd and EEI Corp., a local construction company then known as Engineering Equipment Inc. thru its subsidiary, Industrial Training Corp. of Asia (ITCA).

ITCA was to provide manpower services for painting animated cels from Toei. In 1990, the joint venture between EEI and Toei was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The company was then known as EEI-TOEI Animation Corp., with EEI as the majority owner.

In 1998, Toei Animation Co., Ltd. become the majority owner of Toei Philippines and in 2000, EEI sold the remaining shares to Toei Animation Co., Ltd. The company then, changed its name to Toei Animation Phils., Inc.

The company started the digitization of its animation production in 1997. First with its Digital Ink and Paint and Special Effects processes. In 2000, it became the

first studio in the Philippines and maybe in the world to fully digitized its In-betweening process, followed by the background process in 2004.

At present, only the Key Animation process remains in manual operation. In July 1, 2006, the company started its 3D Computer Graphics section which will also serve the requirements of Toei Animation Co., Ltd.

To date, the company employs 200 regular employees. It has a production capacity of about 60,000 drawings per month, exclusively serving the requirements of Toei Animation Co., Ltd. In Japan.

-Taken from their website, toeiphils.com.ph/

This year is the 30th anniversary of the company and they are holding an Individual Cosplay Contest during the Animahinasyon Festival. The contest will only accept cosplayers of Toei animated works such as *Pretty Cure*, *Sailormoon* and *One Piece*.

Animahinasyon Festival is on November 22-26 at Samsung Hall, SM Aura, Taguig City. The cosplay Competition will be on Nov 23. Details can be found at: facebook.com/ToeiAnimationPhilippines



Pokemon Sun and Moon Out This November

by James

Finally trainers, the long wait is (almost) over! Pokemon Sun and Moon, the seventh generation of the two-decade old creature-catching global phenomenon, will be released on the 18th of November.

Like in every new gen, Pokemon Sun and Moon will be set in a new region, the Alola region. With its geography and theme based on Hawaii, Alola will be the first Pokemon region to ever be a group of tropical islands instead of being one a big island, peninsula, or a main island. And of course, there will also be new Pokemon, all of which follow the Hawaiian motif.

But what truly sets the Sun and Moon apart from the previous gens would be new features that will appear for the first time in the history of the franchise. A few good examples would be Island Challenges, which will be replacing gym battles and will be requiring players to solve puzzles; and Z-Moves, powerful moves that can only be used when they're holding the right Z-Crystal.

So, are you ready for your next – or first – Pokemon adventure? If yes, then you better get to your nearest game store when the game hits the shelves. And fast; this is, after all, a Pokemon game.



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CRAY-CRAY for MILKSHAKES!

by Ann

All photos by: Xian Ann Camacho

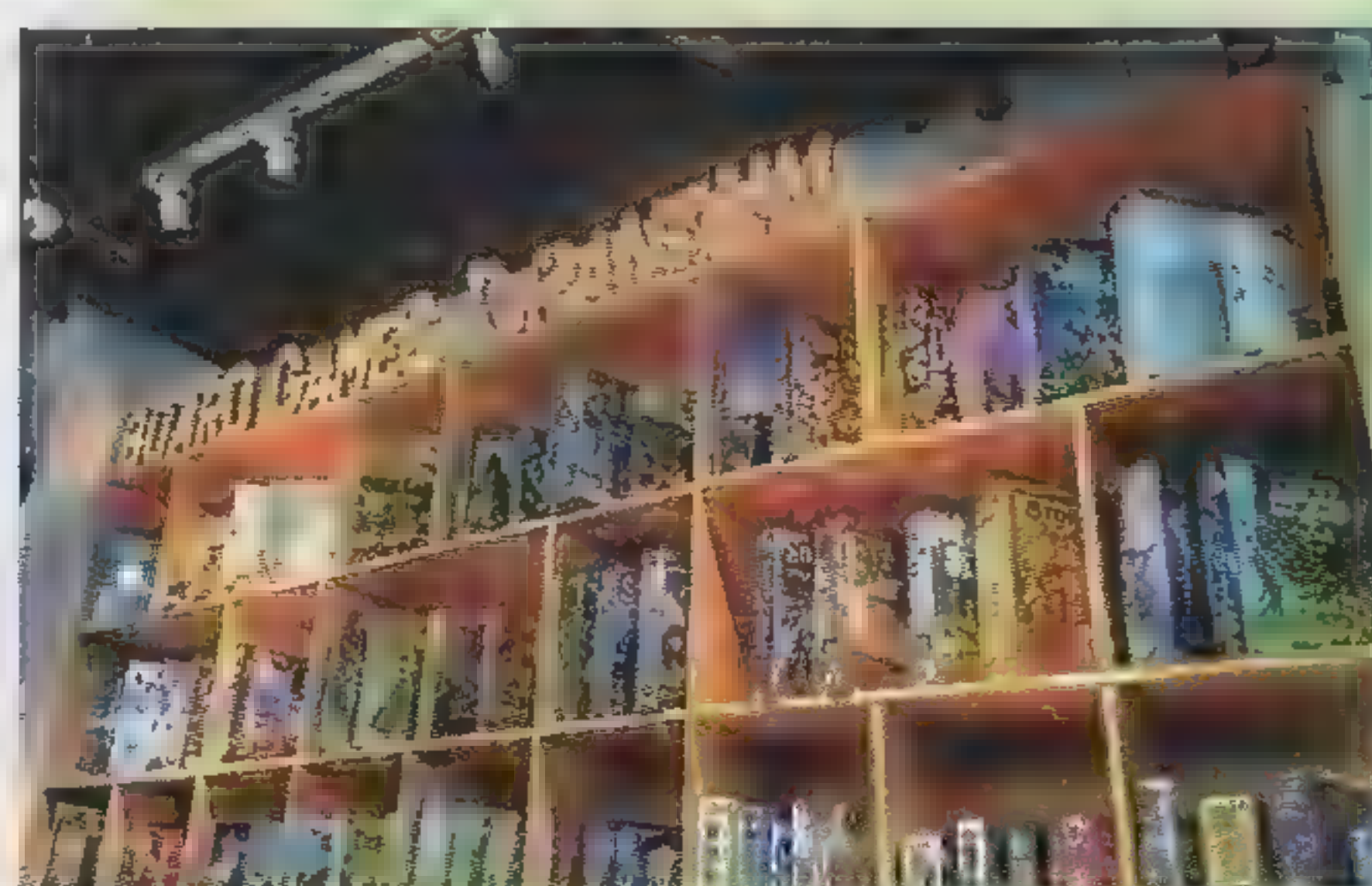
Think out of the box and find something crazy! But don't worry because not all crazy is bad; in fact, the ones we have here are the really good type of crazy! Check out these outrageous milkshake places you'd want to try soon!

CRANIUM BOARDGAME LOUNGE+RESTO

As its name states, Cranium Board Game Lounge + Resto is the perfect hangout for everyone because not only do they have over a hundred games, they also serve Crazy Cranium Milkshakes. With bestsellers such as Toasted Marshmallow Milkshake and Oreo Cookie Monster Milkshake, these treats will keep your hunger at bay as you put on your thinking caps and have fun times with your squad with games such as Uno Stacko, Cards Against Humanity, Taboo Philippine Edition, and more!

In addition to access to these games, you can also ask for help from the Game Master about how to play the games on their shelf. Cranium opened this July and added the crazy milkshakes to its menu because the owner was inspired to bring the concept from New York where crazy milkshakes became a hit. Aside from their bestsellers, other flavors to choose from are Reese's Peanut Butter Milkshake, Vanilla Rainbow Milkshake, Triple Salted Caramel, and Triple Chocolate Diabetus.

Cranium is located at the Ground Floor of D'University Place, 2421 Leon Guinto Street Malate, Manila (near De La Salle University and College of Saint Benilde) and opens every Monday to Saturday from 11am to 11pm.



AMO YAMIE CRIB

A little towards the North, Amo Yamie Crib reigns as one of the most popular milkshake stops because it currently has four branches. AYC offers a wide variety of milkshakes called Fairytale Frosts, ranging from Once Upon a Nutella, Smurfy Smores, Oreo & Juliet, Mocha Wish, The 3 Maltesers, Red Riding Hood, A Reese in Wonderland, Snow White, Wizard of Oreo, and Bubble Berry, and the Original Jav-Aladdin. For a larger size of Jav-Aladdin and Wizard of Oreo, you can order the Drunk Dwarf. With a growing market, AYC has expanded its spaces to be able to accommodate everyone while letting them enjoy a little privacy with the bunks. Starting 2012, AYC, which translates to "Love, Delicious, Home," breathes life to the owner's fairytale dreams.

AYC has the following branches España, Mendiola, San Fernando (Pampanga), and Katipunan. These are open from 10am to 10pm, but be ready when they sometimes get crowded because students flock them during the weekdays.

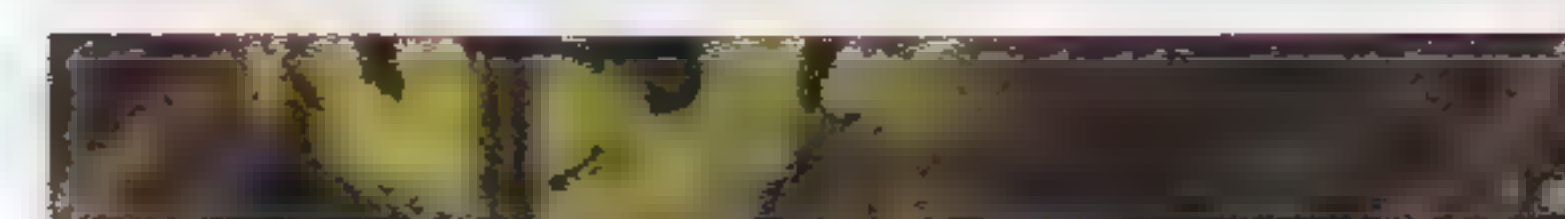


ECKS' DESSERT CAFE

A once hidden gem in Gumamela Street that started this May, Ecks Dessert Cafe relocated along Aurora Drive in Las Piñas City this August and got the greater attention it deserved! Ecks' Dessert answers the cravings of people from the South with milkshakes called Madshakes partnered with burgers and fries. Its milkshakes include Oreo Overload, Choco Overload, Mango Graham, and Coffee Crumble, with S' mores and Hello Kitty as their bestsellers. They can either be ice-based or ice-cream based if you want a creamier texture. The owner, Ecks' love for making donuts, cupcakes and other desserts allowed her to use them as a creative take on milkshakes.

Ecks Dessert Cafe can be found at the 2nd floor, 62 Aurora Drive, Vergonville Subdivision, Pulanglupa Dos, Las Piñas City, open from 4pm to 10pm every Tuesday to Sunday.

This isn't a list of the top outrageous milkshakes, but they're definitely ones you need to watch out for when you feel like going cray-cray for milkshakes!





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NEGLECTION

Product Number: E09527
Series: Infinity
Scale: 1/8
Height: 17.8 cm
Weight: 0.63 kg

Our little butterfly fairy loves flower, blue rose in particular, thus she often appears as butterfly and explores around flower. One day, she got trapped in a spider web and a human saved her from the spider. She then employs her human form and comes seek her life saver. As she is originally a butterfly, a pair of wings remain visible after she takes over her human form.



Like in any Infinity creations of E2046, they have sculpted the figure with great care and attention to detail. Much of Neglection's design are of wings, feathers and flowers which all requires careful curves and smooth edges. While her demure features hide her interior, her wings and hair show off her beauty in her human form.

Sculpting

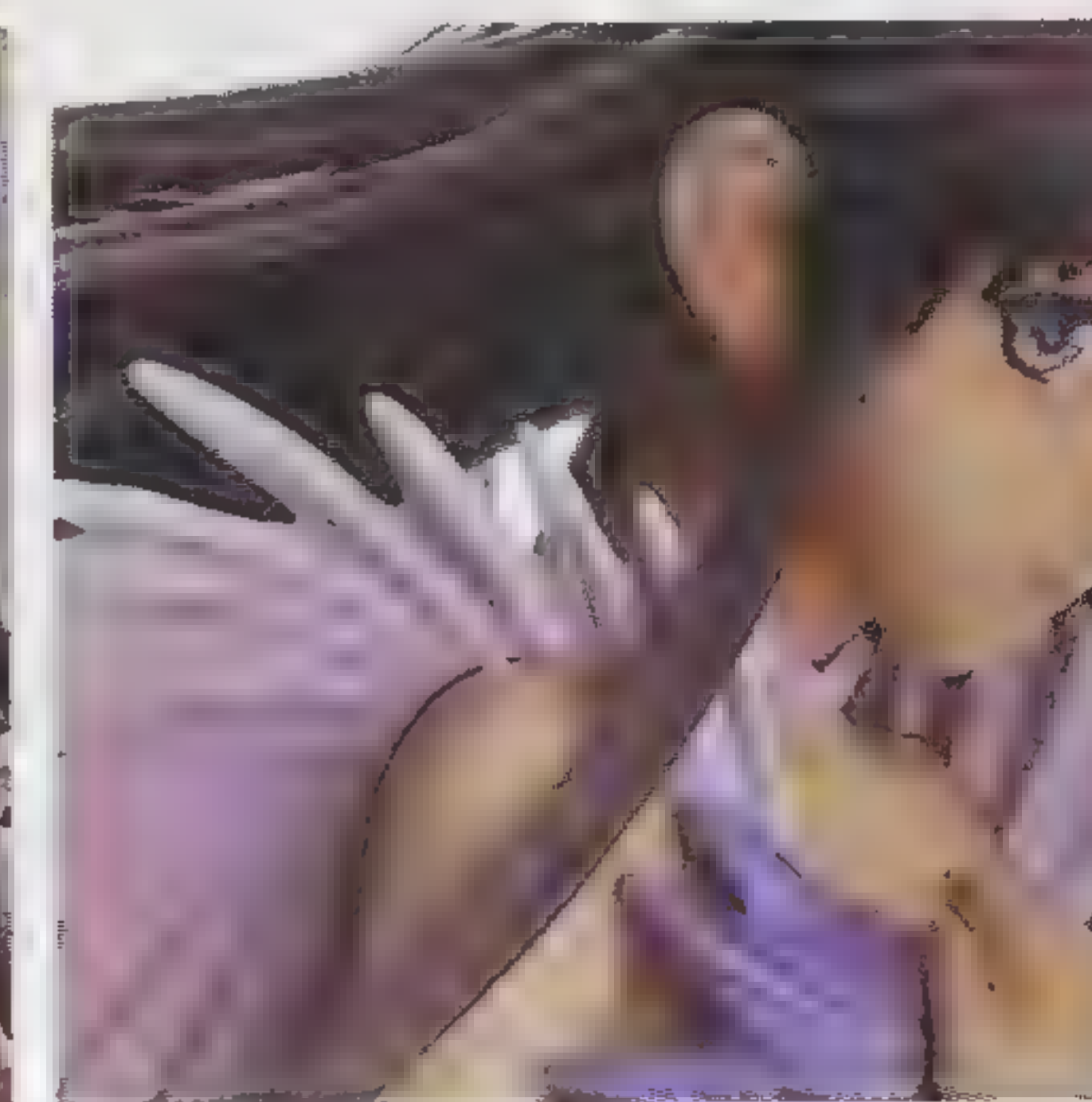
The are a few edges on her outfit that we want to be more sharp and flowing but all in all, the sculpt is smooth and seamless. The flowers look very hard to achieve so good work there. Her wings and base are smooth and flowy just as she is.

Painting

The colors are mute purple and pink which accentuates her skin and hair. If she could have had more colors rather than just shades and gradients, it would have stood out more on a shelf. But since she is an Ori figure, you can paint her as you like.

Price

As of writing, the figure is on pre-order for no more than 2.5k Php. For a figure that will not take up much of shelf space and challenge your edge smoothing skills, the price is not bad. Even beginners could assemble this garage kit.





HOOKED BOOK

by lizac 3.0

MIND-BLOWING MODULAR ORIGAMI

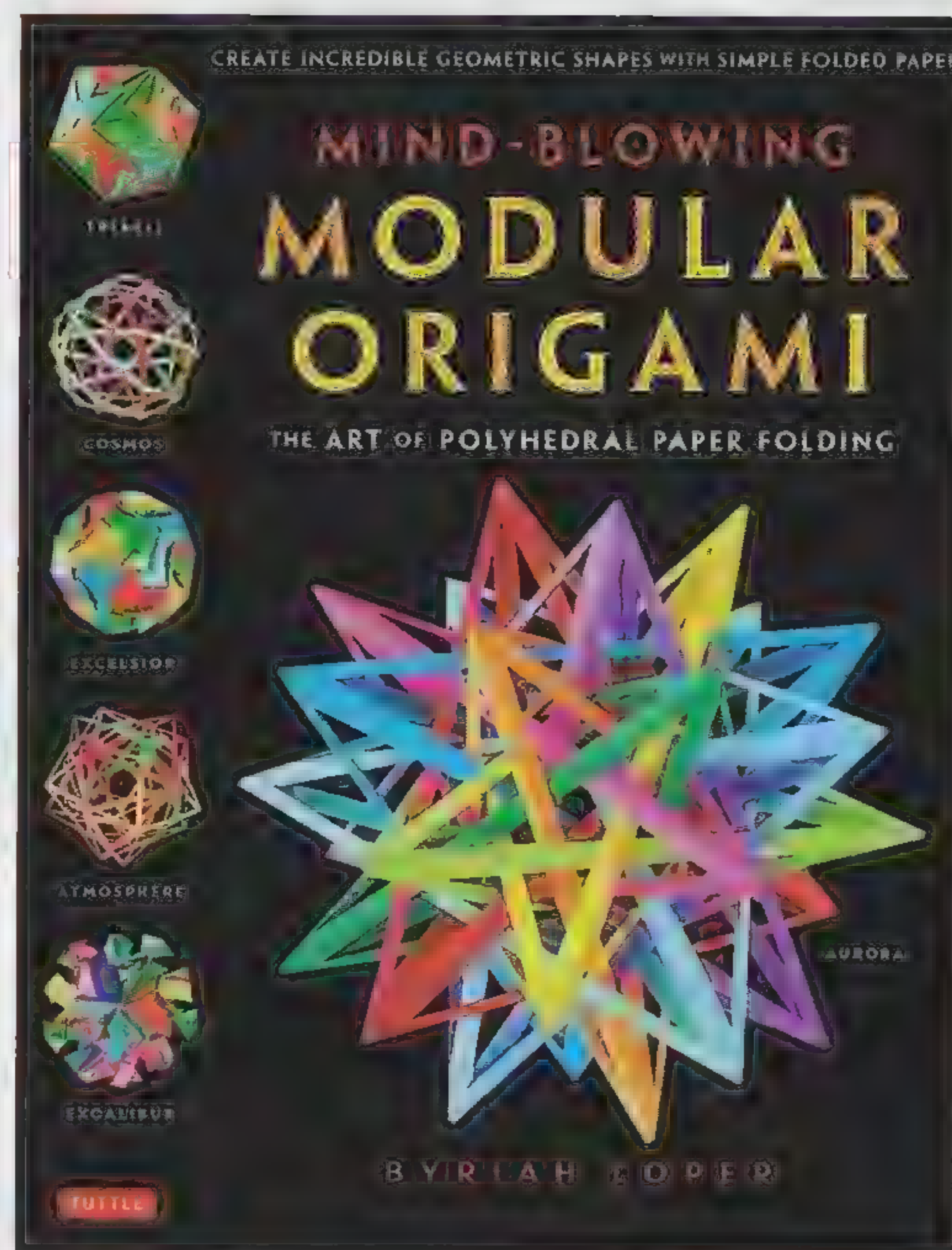
(paperback with flaps)

Author: Byriah Loper

Publisher: Tuttle Publishing

Published on January 11th, 2016

Price: P534.20



The use of origami or "paper folding" was first recorded in Japan in the year 1680. Its original artist is unknown, but it has been widely used for many different occasions in the ancient times, most notably in Shinto weddings. Basic knowledge of origami will enable a person to fold 10,000 paper cranes for one wish, as the popular legend says, and for decoration purposes. However, learning other various and more complicated types of origami in the modern times is a different story.

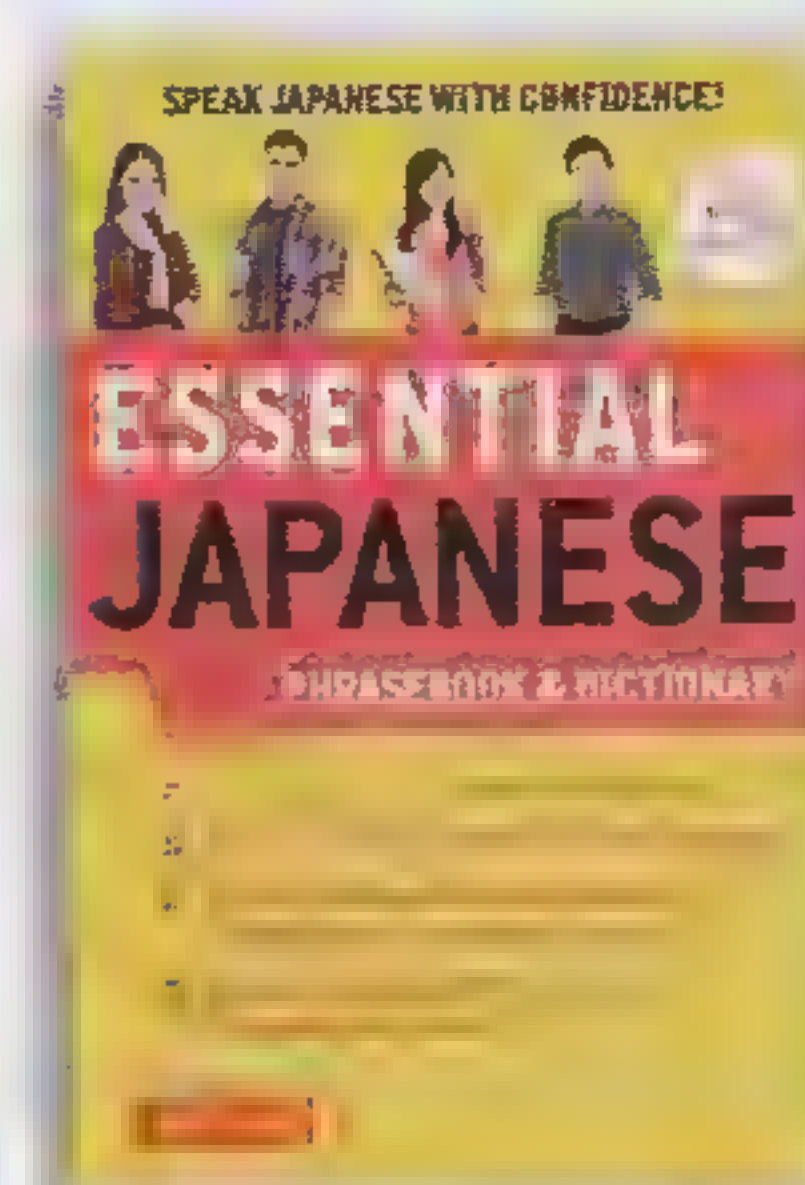
Author **Byriah Loper** found a way to mold art and science into one. His book "**Mind-blowing Modular Origami**" showcases the art of polyhedral paper folding. This complex type of paper art he mastered is called modular origami, a modern way of creating intricate and scientific paper models. Modular origami makes use of smaller identical pieces of paper that fit in together to form a complex object. This type of paper art does not only involve folding but also requires devotedly putting the pieces together to create the masterpiece, and that's the logic of modular origami: it is for people who love working on details and solving puzzles.

Loper has created modular origami for five years and crafted over 250 original works. When he discovered a paper airplane calendar, he became interested in origami art. Since then, he has modeled complex objects using paper. He is the pioneer of open, linear wire frame method that shows the interior of a paper art. He exhibits sculptures regularly in different art conventions in the United States and has gained popularity for his unique approach to modular origami.

Looking for more challenge in paper folding art? Grab a copy of Loper's book exclusive on Tuttle Publishing and enter the tricky world of modular origami.

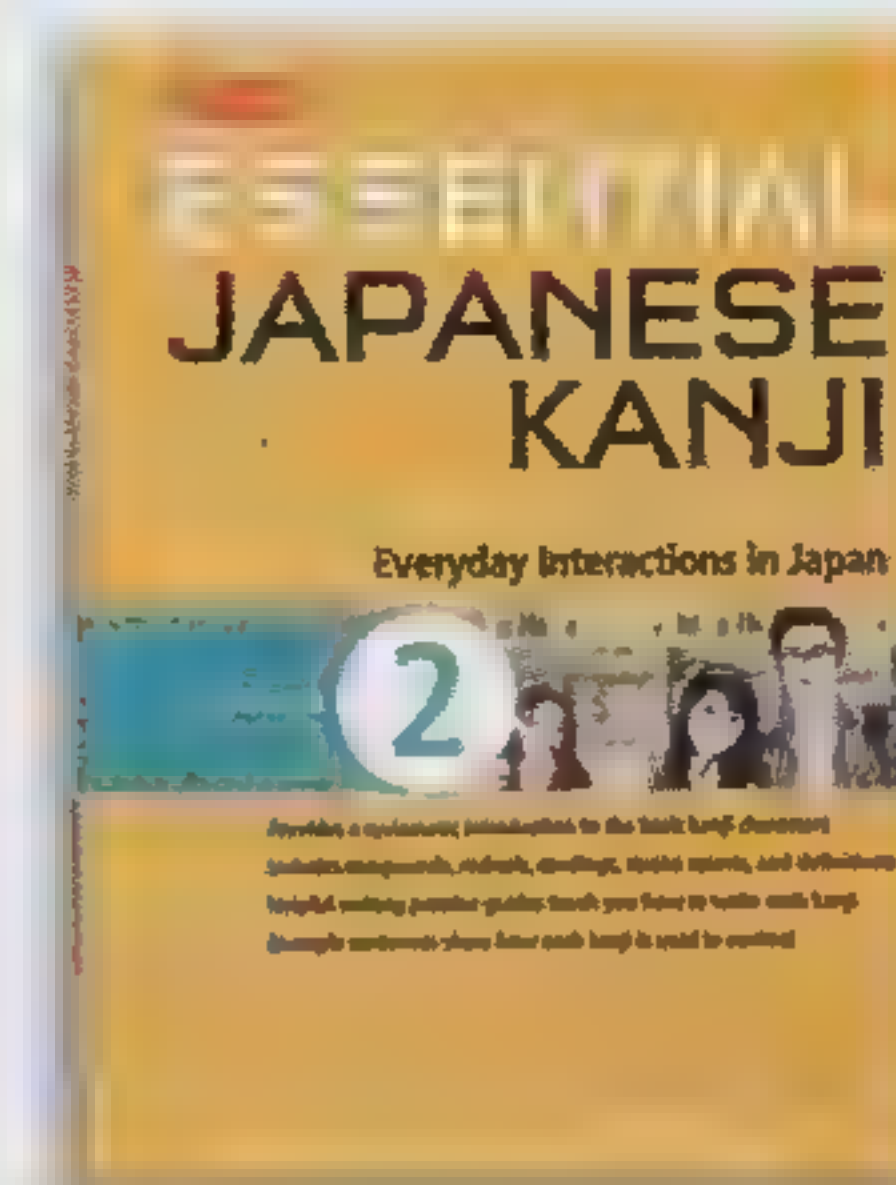
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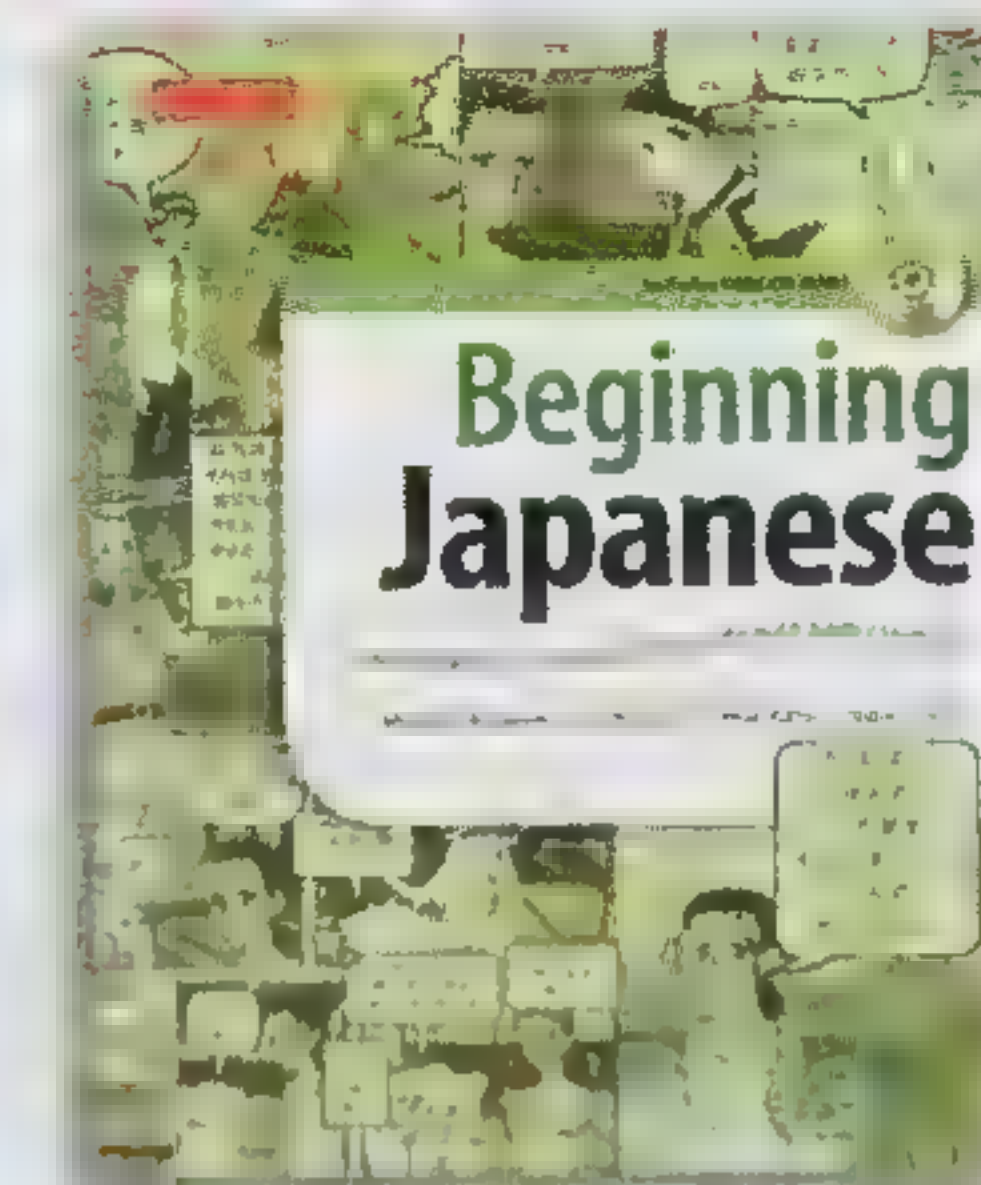
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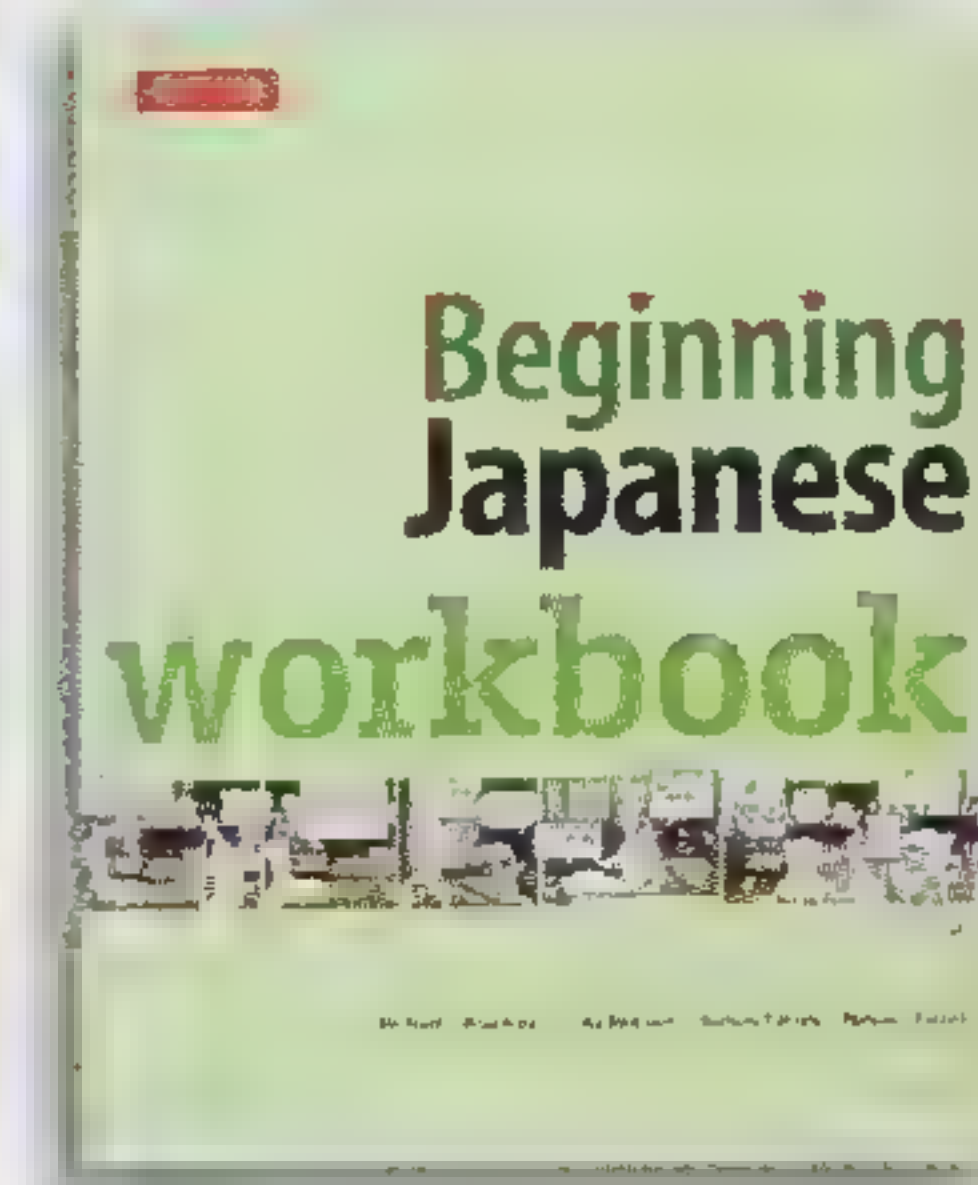
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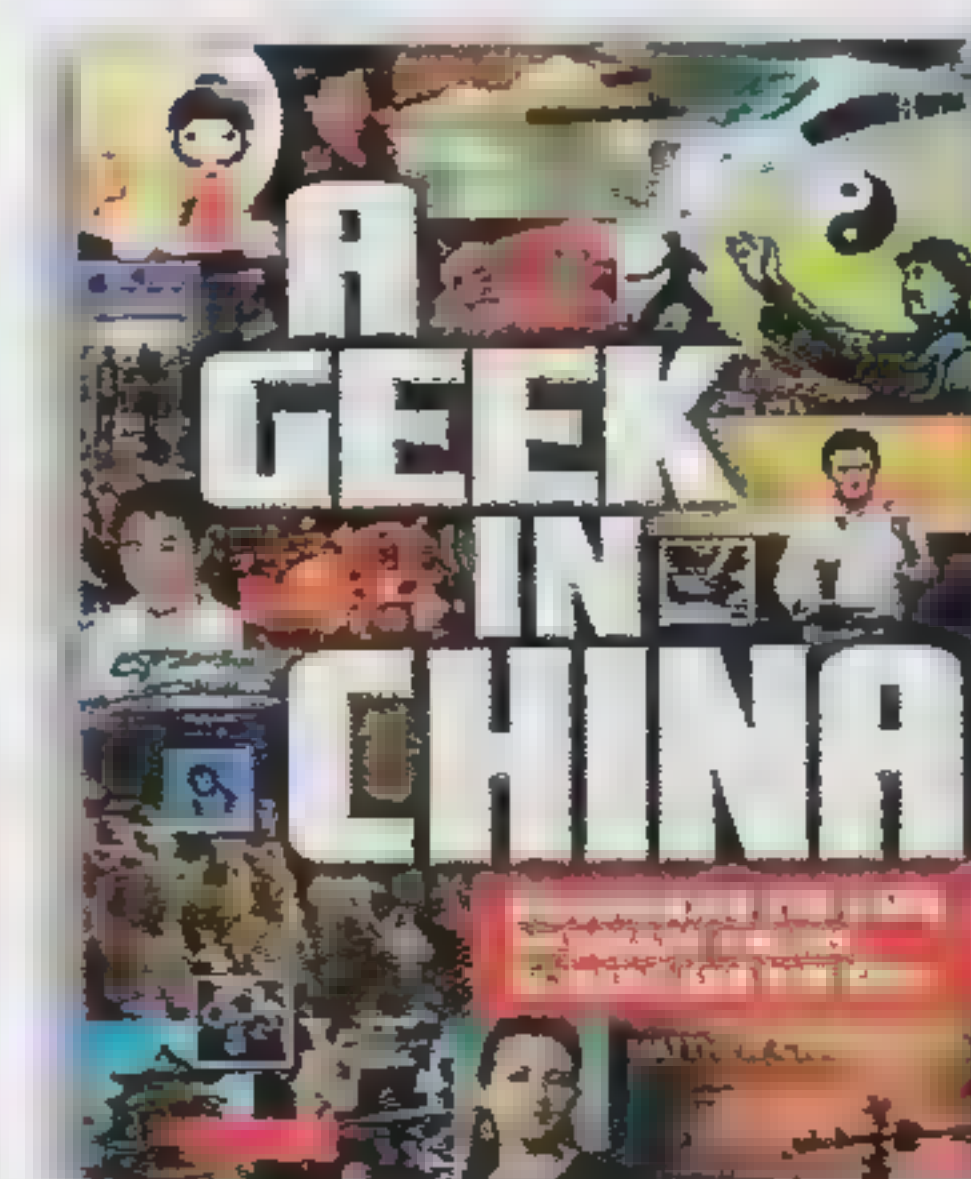
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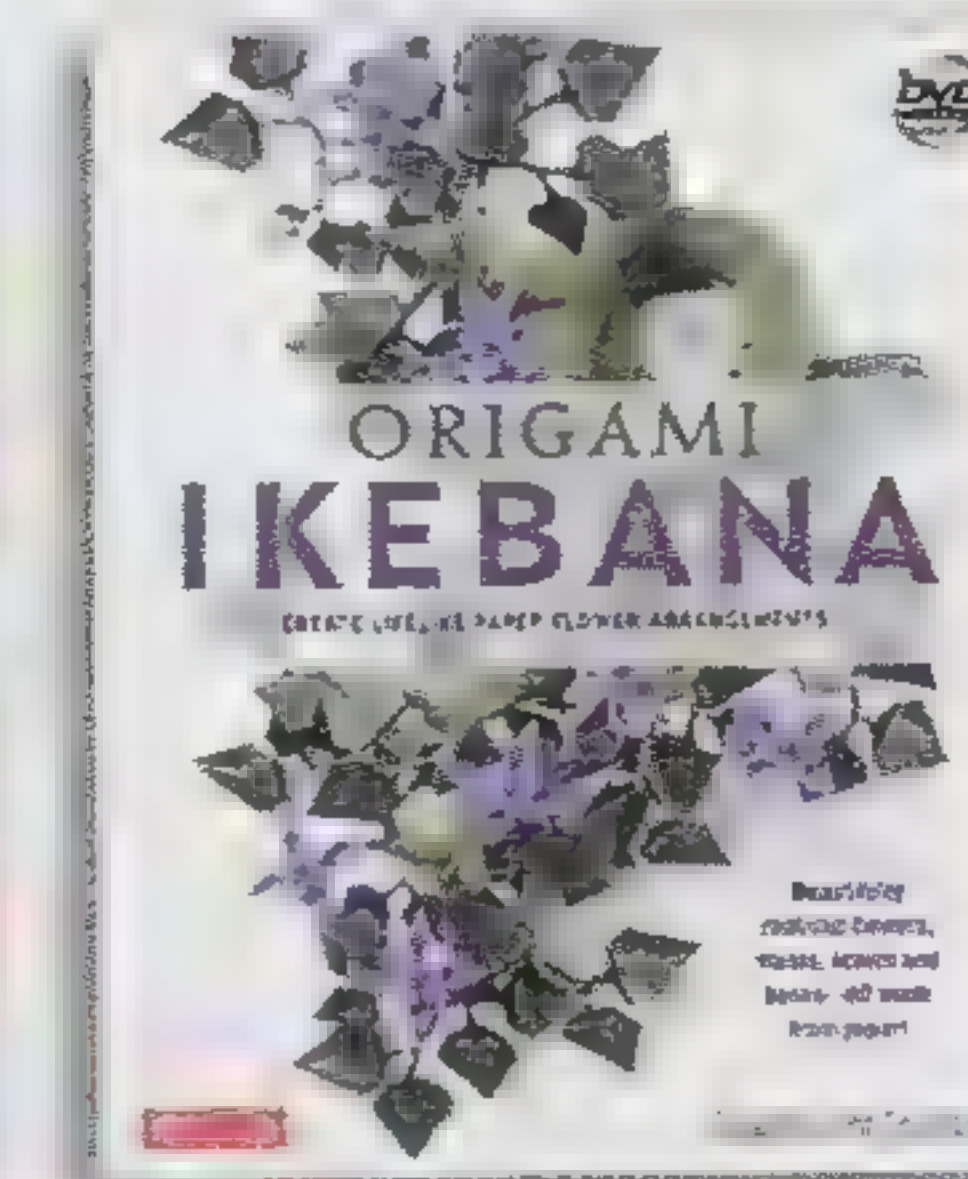
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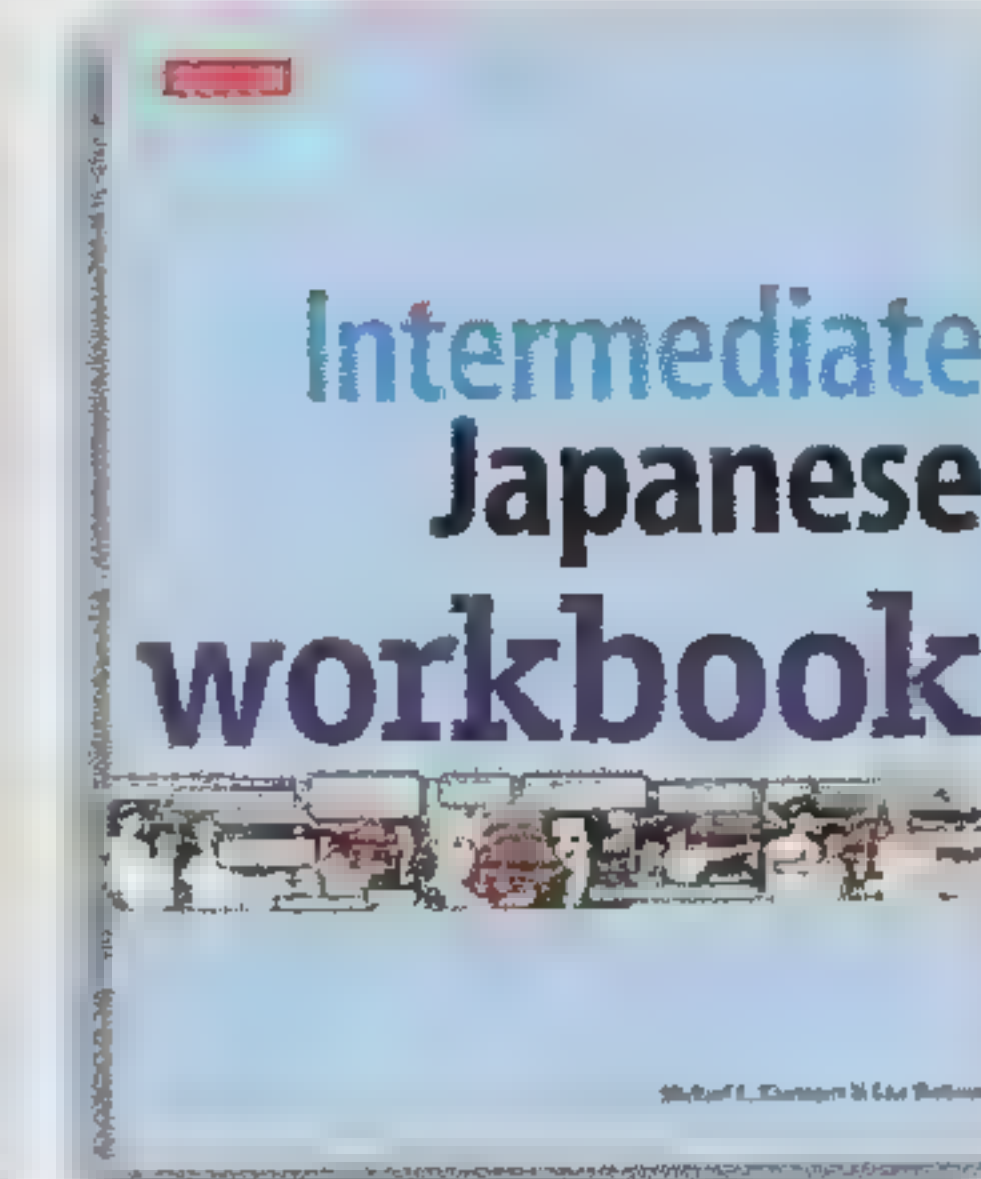
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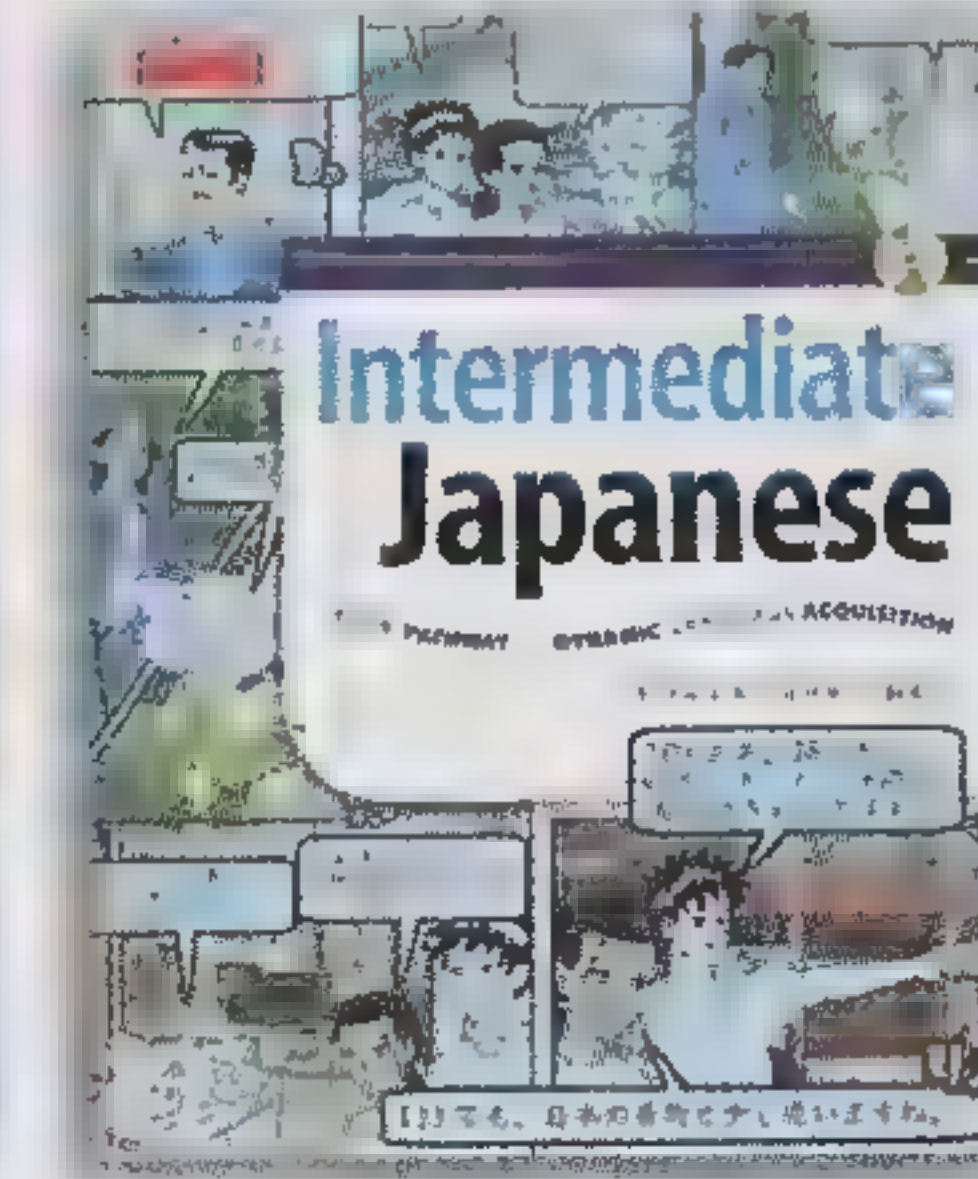
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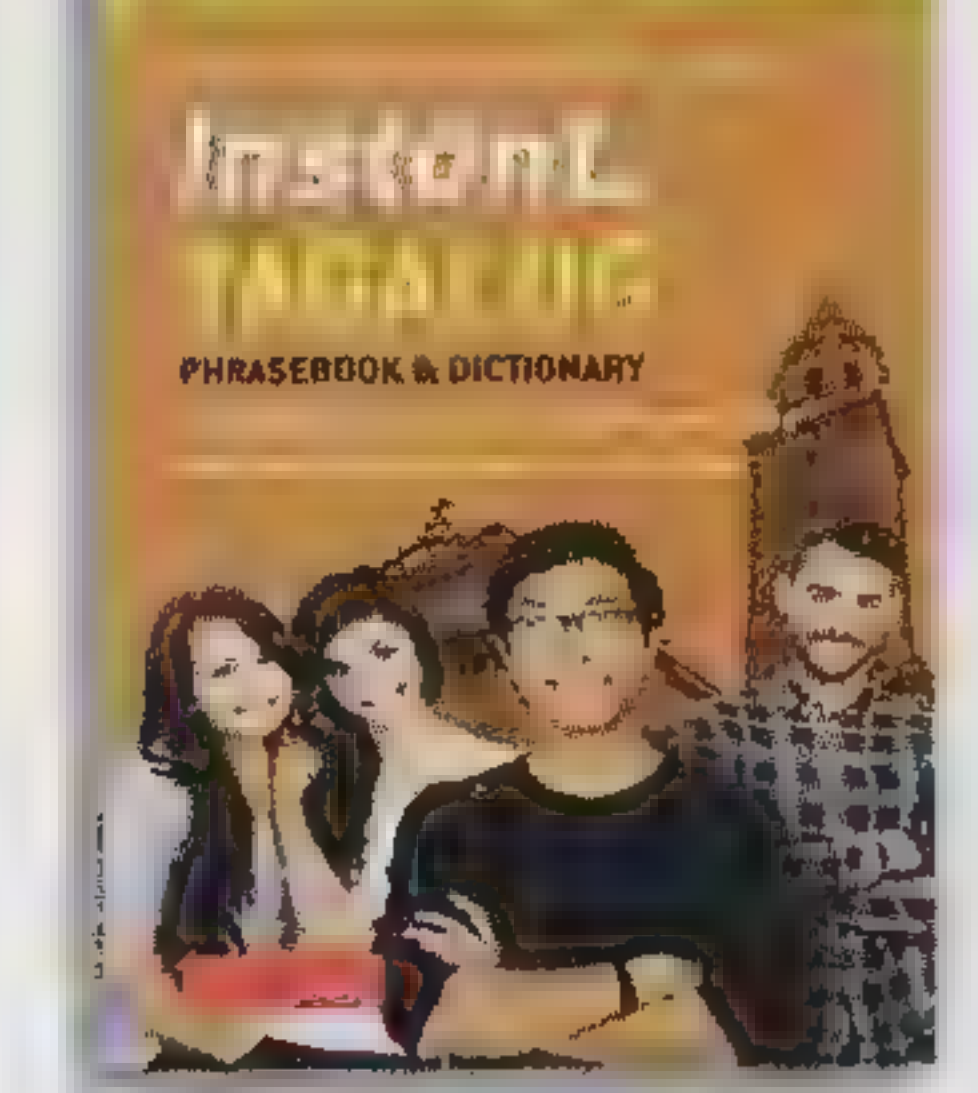
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THERE'S ALWAYS A CRAZY MONSTER PARTY SOMEWHERE IN JAPAN

by Ann

Kyary Pamyu Pamyu took kawaii to a whole new level with her odd creatures and creepy-turned-cute antics, but a concept café in Japan closely embodies what she portrayed to the world. Introducing Kawaii Monster Café!

Known to have a wild and colorful fashion culture, Harajuku inspired the cuteness in Kawaii Monster Café based on Art Director Sebastian Masuda's vision in collaboration with Diamond Dining. Most famous in representing Harajuku kawaii culture, Masuda was also behind Kyary Pamyu Pamyu's debut and kawaii visuals wherever she goes. Hence, it is no doubt that he would be behind the production of the theme of the restaurant, which is not only reflected by its interior design and food, but also by the Monster Girls who entertain the guests.



Kawaii Monster spreads the good vibes with its hip interior design. Greeting the customers as they enter the restaurant is the tongue of Mr. Ten Thousand Chopsticks ("Choppy"), the mascot until guests reach the Sweets Go Round, a cake shaped as a merry-go-round. Technically, the guests are entertained within this monster mascot's tummy, but who knew his tummy would have such delightful sections! With 193 seats available, guests get to choose where they wish to stay: Mushroom Disco, Milk Stand, Bar Experiment, or Mel-Tea Room. Mushroom Disco is like the home of the Caterpillar from Alice in Wonderland because it's a forest of colorful mushrooms and other weird (and cute) plants. Milk Stand is a room with tons of baby milk bottles and suspended rabbit, sheep, and unicorn heads.

Next, Bar Experiment gives the feel of the ocean floor with a glowing jellyfish by the bar. Finally, Mel-Tea Room has the melting ice cream, chocolate, and macarons for a tea party with ants treading the path towards it.

Apart from the picture perfect interior, the restaurant extends kawaii monster to its menu through dishes such as salad, sandwich, and pasta. Most famous is the Colorful Rainbow Pasta served in a plate that looks like a painter's palette. They also have Colorful Poison Parfait and Colorful Poison Cake, which aren't really poisonous but goes well with the theme. Plus, they have both alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks.

Kawaii Monster also attracts a wide audience because they have the Monster Girls: sweet "Baby," selfish "Dolly," happy "Candy," sexy "Nasty," and moody "Crazy." Each of them wears unique Harajuku style costumes made by fashion blogger Misha Janette. These costumes represent their characters such as Baby wearing a dress topped with baby shoes and fabric made to look like baby legs around her waist.

With kawaii monster written all over the place, this restaurant has been a magnet for locals and tourists; even Ariana Grande went for a visit for a Vogue Japan photoshoot. It opened its doors to the public in August of last year.

Guests can stay at the restaurant for a maximum of 90 minutes, but it's just enough time to take part in the fun and crazy party. Aside from that, guests can also bring home the cuteness by buying their merchandise in the store with goodies such as pens, notebooks, shirts, and bags.

KAWAII MONSTER CAFE
HARAJUKU

So, don't forget to strike your monster pose if you get to drop by at Kawaii Monster Café!

BENTO BOX

There was a time in 2014 when news broke out about Hello Kitty, Sanrio's character, being a British girl rather than a cat. It shook the world but was easily accepted by Japanophiles. Knowing that the Japanese traditionally create anthropomorphized or gijinka characters for promotion.

Hello Kitty is known almost by everyone and I mean EVERYONE. Even rugged hardcore bikers would know of the iconic character which was created in 1974 and brought to the US in 1976. The promotion is called "Hello Kitty" but the character's name is actually Kitty White.

Her target audience started with the pre-adolescent females but since 2010 when Sanrio groomed Hello Kitty as a global marketing phenomenon, the market has broadened to include both younger and adult consumers. There had been a Hello Kitty TV series, jewelries and Sanrio theme parks.

Most memorable for me was the Sanrio Hello Kitty cafe in SM Megamall back in 2000-2002. It started my love for Hello Kitty and my cousin and I started to collect any merchandise we could get. I've since lost, sold and given away most of my collections but the love is still there.

December last year, there was a pop-up Hello Kitty store in both SM Mall of Asia in Pasay and in Fiesta Duty Free Mall in Parañaque. Hello Kitty cafes have been around in Japan, the US, Turkey and South Korea and now has started to take seed in the Philippines. The pop up cafes was open until January of this year and was in preparation for the grand opening of the country's first Hello Kitty Cafe in Bonifacio Global City in March.

HELLO KITTY DESSERT BAR by kanddy

Or so the news said but March came and went and only new pop-up stores have been made. I visited the first one in SM City North Edsa and completely immersed myself in the experience. I lost all my photos in the end but it was still an experience worth sharing.

SM City North Edsa, The Block 2nd floor. You might call it out of place being in the middle of big named fashion clothing stores. The place is called Hello Kitty Dessery Bar. And as you may have expected, the place offers mostly their pastries and juices. They would have pastas and sandwiches if you are looking for something filling but they are only limited.

One of the things I have to warn you is not to expect the international level of product and service. I'm sure some the Hello Kitty Cafes around the world are great and grand but this newly opened is still trying to work their ground. My experience wasn't anything grand. I went to the place as a distraction from work anyway and I must have expected too much. The donuts and cakes all looked delicious while their salads, sandwiches and pastas looked appetizing. However, I don't think I would come again in high hopes.

This Hello Kitty Cafe seems to be under Megaworld Lifestyle Malls and is looking forward to opening more smaller stores before opening the actual brick and mortar store. We hope to hear more updates as we go on and we hope that they would improve their menu as well.

The next pop-up store is to be opened this December at Uptown Mall BGC. This was reported by phonebooky.com

image from: facebook.com/HelloKittyLovesPhilippines





HOOKED BOOK

by lizac 3.0

PATCHWORK QUILTED BAGS TOTES, PURSES & ACCESSORIES

Author: Reiko Washizawa

Published by: Tuttle Publishing

Published on: August 30th 2016

Price: P534.15



Big things come in small packages, or so they say, but no one mentioned how these "packages" are supposed to appear. It's still much better to have things stored in beautiful containers, isn't it? Each household hoards a lot of stuff that are stored in obnoxiously huge boxes, which in turn, only gather dirt. Instead of hoarding, author **Reiko Washizawa** found a creative alternative to put your things in order using beautiful quilted bags for storage. Patchwork quilt, from the term itself, is a number of patches sewn together to create a design. It is usually made of scrap and recycled fabric for bags, although in the modern times, patchworks are also used as decorations and accessories. **Patchwork Quilted Bags** by Reiko Washizawa will help you craft handmade patchwork even though you do not have working knowledge of quilting. This book shows various designs of patchwork quilts that would help decorate bags creatively.

In this book, Washizawa has blended contemporary and traditional quilt designs for amateurs and professionals alike. It's a reader-friendly book that encourages quilt-making in fun ways. The illustrations vary in shapes and sizes, and the prints range from floral to newsprints. As readers go along each page, they are expected to have practiced different techniques in creating the patchwork of their choice. It may be used to make eco bags, baby bags, colorful purses, and more. There are 19 different quilted bags as projected in the book which will surely touch every quilting fan's hobbies or interests.

Get into practical art with a copy of **Patchwork Quilted Bags** book by Reiko Washizawa. You can venture into the quilting business or just simply have fun creating patchworks.



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YANAKIKU

by kanddy

Toycon 2016 was the first time these two women came to the Philippines. They were one of the special Japanese performers for the event and they perform both on the main stage and the small stage. They sold out their merchandise and took the hearts of many including the OA team.

Yana and Kiku are the Japanese pop female vocal duo known as **YANAKIKU**. Formed in 2012, the duo has built up a strong following among Japanese music and fashion fans after appearances at Hyper Japan 2013 (London) and TIFFCOM 2013 (Japan). In 2014, they performed at Tokyo Dome's Furusato Matsuri and the special "New Year Event with Japanese Artists 2014" live show in Korea. In July 2014, YANAKIKU will return to Hyper Japan and make their American debut at San Francisco's J-Pop Summit.



Their first single "Miwaku No LADY" was released in October 2012. In 2013, they released their second single "UPSIDE DOWN" and performed for international audiences at Hyper Japan 2013 (London) and TIFFCOM 2013 (Japan).

The group consists of the exotic and electrifying YANA and the overload of cuteness KIKU. With their unique costumes named "Kimo-Cos" (Kimono Cosplay) and their live Japanese calligraphy, YANAKIKU's high-energy performances and bright, funny personalities are winning over music fans worldwide.

It's not hard for us to illustrate how we came to love Yanakiku after a few songs: their music is a mix of dance music, techno and Japanese melodies. Their lyrics? English and Japanese. During overseas performances, their setlist will heavily include full English songs and mixes being mindful of the language barrier. Like many idol groups, audience participation is required. While that is not a custom here in the PH, the energy of the duo and the music will make any party butt stand up and dance.

If you're not up for party, EDM music then fashion may be your thing. Yanakiku has started a trend of "Kimo-Cos" or Kimono Costume. One of our cosplayer OA staff first noticed their colorful yet well balanced and crafted costumes that is exciting and a candy to the eyes.



Hi Beam, Game Controller and Hello World are only some of the beats that we recommend you to try. Their website yanakiku.jp has their schedule and details.



acx ANIME & COSPLAY EXPO

Anime & Cosplay eXpo: Cosplay.ph's brand new event did not let us down! The event was held last September 2-4, 2016 at Megatrade Hall 3, SM Megamall. It's a mini event but is loaded with lots of stuff that regular congoers will surely love.

The event has selling booths varies from cosplay items to anime, manga and game collectibles. ACX featured the following activities: Storage Wars, Cosplay Auction, Cosplay Karaoke Competition, Cosplay Academy, TORCH Manila Qualifiers, Solo Cosplay Catwalk and Cosplay Got Talent.

Like with the previous Cosplay.PH events, ACX also had the gyudon eating contest sponsored by Yoshinoya and it is also one of the anticipated activity of the event. Most of the crowd want to join the contest but of course, if you want to join it, you must answer questions from Yoshinoya.

Another unique feature of this event is the storage wars and cosplay auction where congoers can auction their items. It must be related to anime, cosplay, manga or game. The starting bid is as low as P1. So if you have items that you're not using anymore, you can auction them during the event. It is advised that you come early so that your items will be included.

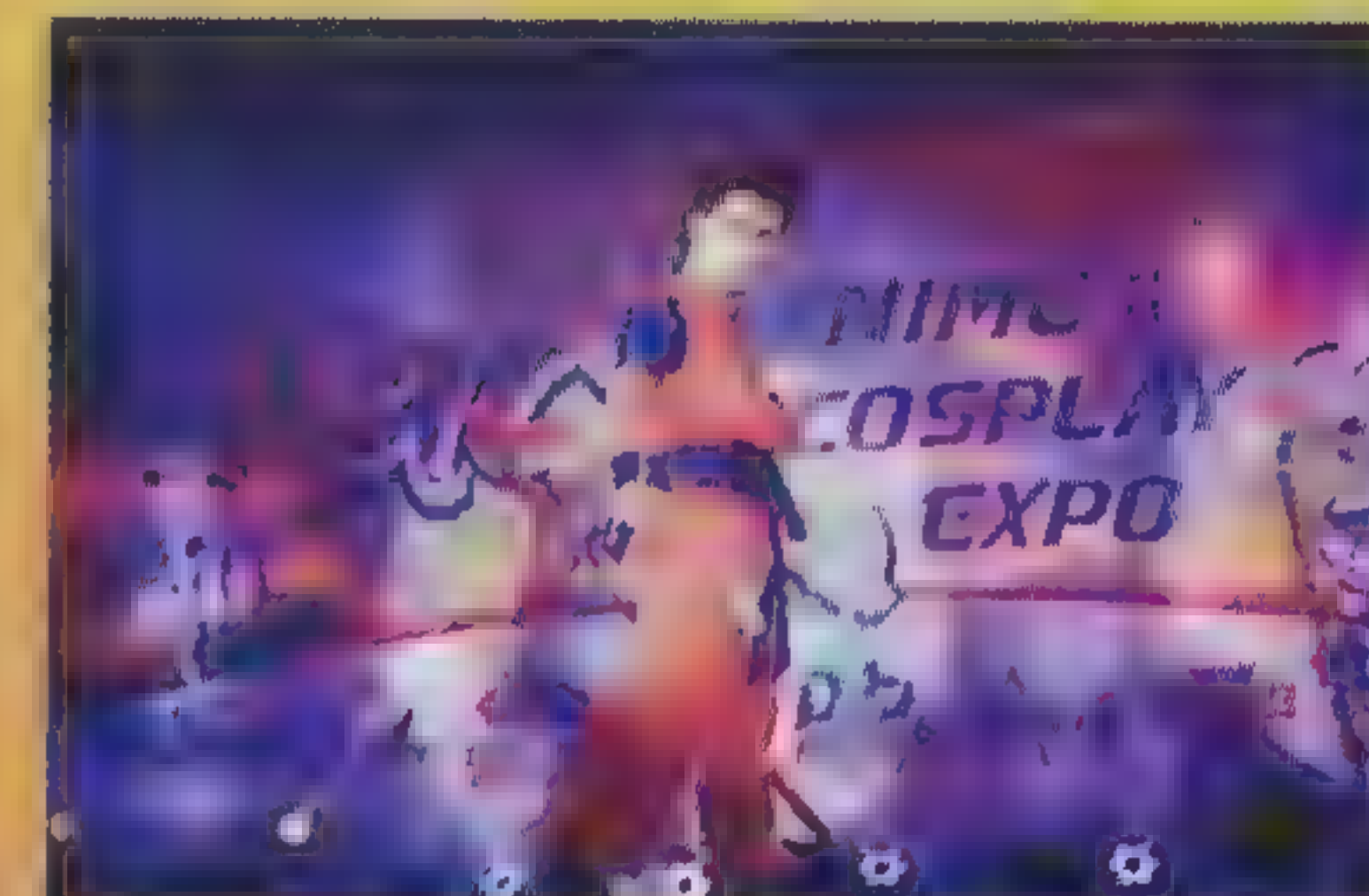
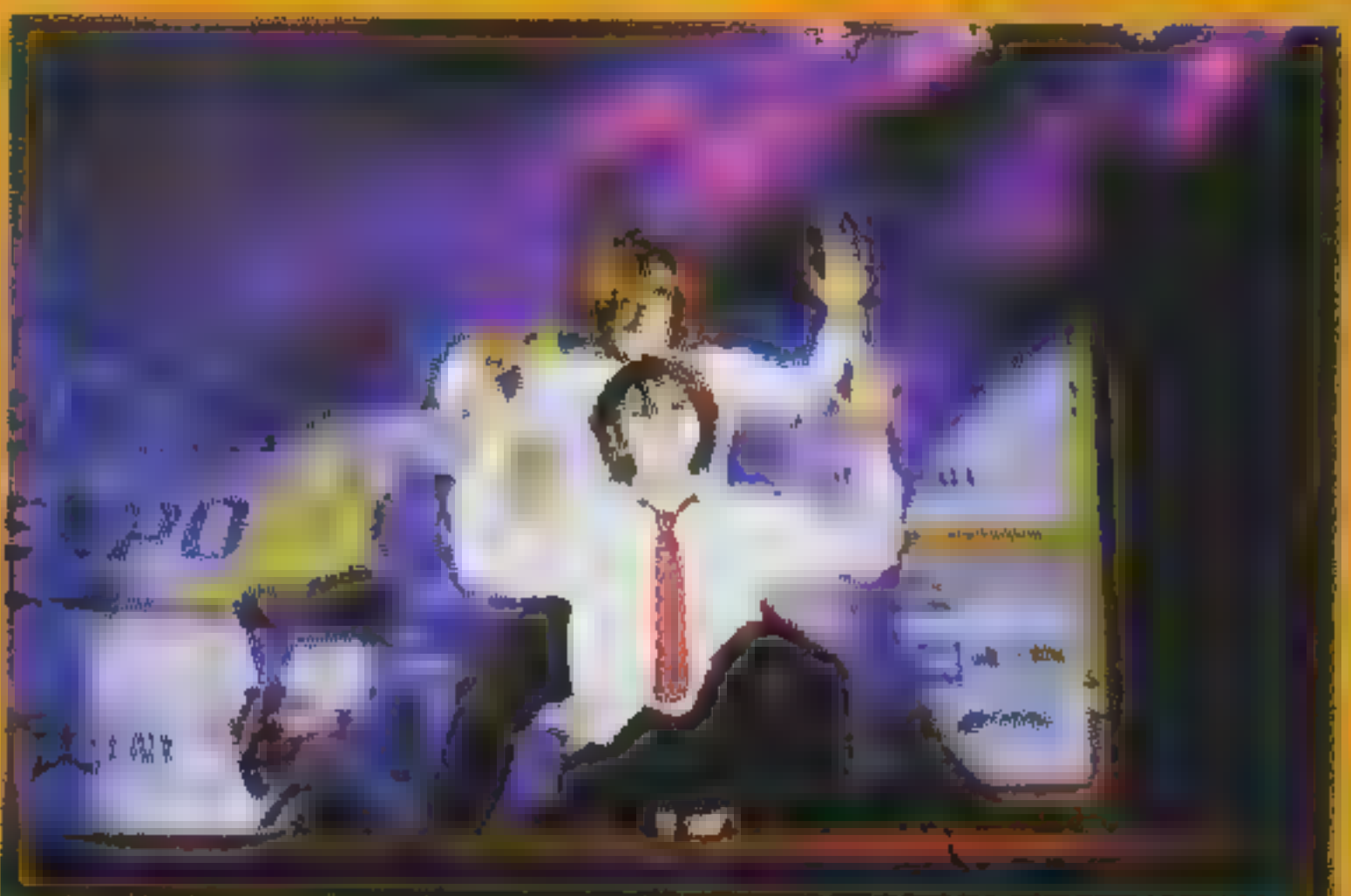
The Cosplay Karaoke Competition for this event was held for 3 days. The first 2 days was for the elimination round and the last day was for the final round. The battle during the last round was intense; each contestant performed well and had talent to show for it.

Having trouble or perhaps you have questions with regards on making costumes and props? Cosplay Academy was made to teach us about the basics and hacks in cosplaying and making your costumes. Tonari no Tsuns and Sir Guy Singson was there to instruct.

The TORCH has been happening every year and the competition happens all around the Philippines. For this year, The Manila qualifiers was held during ACX and of course, the winner will be the one to compete during Cosplay Mania 2016 along with the other qualifiers nationwide.

The Trivia Throne is another activity that I find cool and amusing. They will choose contestants and of course the first one will be sitting at the 'throne'. The next player must answer the question that is flashed on the screen. If he/she answers it correctly, that person will be the one who will be sitting next. But if the contestant wasn't able to answer the question correctly, that person will be out of the game and the person who is sitting on the throne remains there.

The Cosplay Catwalk and Cosplay Got Talent were the two anticipated segments of the event~ In most events, these two were combined into one but ACX made it into 2 different segments. In Cosplay Catwalk, cosplayers will show off their costumes to the judges and audience by walking on the stage. In Cosplay Got Talent, the cosplayers can do skits, dancing, singing while in costume of course. The winner of the Cosplat Catwalk will have a place on the Cosplay Mania Cup that will be held this coming October 1-2, 2016 and while the winner of Cosplay Got Talent will be featured during Cosplay Mania.





In general, it seems that Anime & Cosplay eXpo or ACX was made for interacting with the audience. Their contests, activities and stage events were most certainly more interactive and fun than most of the other events from Cosplay.ph. The booths were only few and the food even less but it makes it less of a convention and more of, well, an Expo.

Anime and Cosplay eXpo's Official Facebook Page:
[facebook.com/animacxp](https://www.facebook.com/animacxp)

Cosplay.PH Official Facebook Page:
[facebook.com/Cosplay.ph](https://www.facebook.com/Cosplay.ph)

where
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 Facebook: /TheSwordMasters Contact # 0935 665 6760



SEIYUU'S MIC

AYANA TAKETATSU

article by James

Kirino of Oreimo isn't exactly a well-loved anime character, and for a good reason, but hey, you can't hate on her VA. She is, after all, cute and likeable enough to be your imouto despite being in her not-so-late twenties already. Ladies and gentle-bros, make way for Ayana Taketatsu.

Ayana Taketatsu was born on June 23, 1989, and hails from Saitama Prefecture. Like many other seiyuu, she attended Nihon Engi Kenkyūjo, a training school for voice actresses, before joining her previous management company, I'm Enterprise agency. These days, however, she is now with Assemble Heart. And aside from her current agency, she's also a member of Petit Milady, a duo singing group, with Aoi Yuki as the other member.

Other than voicing anime girls, she also loves karaoke (expectedly), reading, shopping, and playing tennis. So if you're a fan, maybe you should gift her clothes, books, or even a tennis racket.

Because of her cute yet defined voice, she has been known to voice tsundere characters. Some of the most well-known ones are the following:



Kotori Itsuka (Date-A-Live)

-the foster little sister of Shidou Itsuka, the series' protagonist, she's got two attitudes: the first as a sweet, gentle imouto who's dependent to her onii-chan, and the second as a cynical, tough-talking tsundere who leads Ratatosk with strength and determination. And oh, she's also got an axe-wielding fire spirit going on, so don't piss her off.

Suguha Kirigaya (Sword Art Online)

-the foster little sister and actual cousin of unbelievably skilled gamer Kirigaya Kazuto, whom we all know as Kirito, Suguha flies the skies of Alfheim as the verdant-donning blonde faerie Leafa. Every girl's in love with Kirito, and so is she. But that's not the only thing going for her; she is, after all, a skilled swordswoman and spellcaster to boot.



Hotaru Shidare (Dagashi Kashi)

-to break the imouto mold, here's Hotaru, the eccentric daughter of a big sweet company. She spends most of her summer time pestering Konokotsu, the series' lead, to step up and become the head of his father's sweets store, albeit in the weirdest and most inappropriate ways possible, so that their fathers can team up and make the best sweets in the country.

Without a doubt, Ayana Taketatsu got the talent, the roundedness, and of course, the character, so it shouldn't come as a surprise why she could play colorful characters with varied attitudes, and temperament. So, give this "imouto" a pat on the head, will you?



YUKARI NI-NA GUERZON

all answers provided by Yukari
compiled by: lizac 3.0

Just about every little thing in this young woman is cute, the type that would light up the room once she comes to sight. But she's more than just an eye candy. Yukari Ni-nan Guerzon, or simply Yukari, is one of the representatives of Team Philippines in the recently held World Cosplay Summit in Japan. Currently the face of World Cosplay Summit Philippines, Yukari shares her meaningful experiences with our readers for this issue, and Otaku Asia is indeed, lucky to have been graced with her radiance!

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS AND INSPIRATION

I first started cosplaying around 2010 at the MCS X (Mindanao Cosplay Summit '10) where I cosplayed Enma Ai from the anime Jigoku Shoujo. There are lots of cosplayers who I've looked up to and inspired me, both here in the Philippines and also outside of the country. I admire Ms. Zhel Guiral the most because aside from her works and cosplays, she keeps her feet on the ground and still supports her fellow cosplayers. She always reminds us that cosplay should always be fun. Cosplayers like Ms. Alodia and Ashley Gosiengfiao, Ms. Ikumi Ces (Philippines), KANAME & Reika (Japan), Ms. Nina Oruntia & Echo (Indonesia), Mr. Jayden Champ Okageo (California), Yuurisan Cosplay, also inspired me. Oh my—there are too many to mention!



ON MAKING COSTUMES AND THE STRUGGLES OF BEING A COSPLAYER

I make my own costumes, either armors or the clothe itself. My specialty is making the details and accessories. I admit that there are still some parts which I find very difficult to craft, that is why some of the parts are made with the help of my friends. I think making the small details is the most difficult part in creating costumes. As a cosplayer, the most challenging experience we had way back was when cosplay wigs were not yet introduced to us. Before, in order to achieve the hair color of the character we were portraying, we would use colored hairspray. And the funny thing is, in every event, the shop where we buy that colored hair spray from would always run out of stock!

JOINING THE COMPETITIVE SIDE OF COSPLAY

Gomer Taboada (Gomz) and I were already friends back then because of cosplaying. It was two years ago when we planned to join World Cosplay Summit (WCS) as a pair. Last year, we finally joined and named our team "Team StarSeeker", since we are huge fans of Phantasy Star Online and Final Fantasy.

Last October 2015, we (Team StarSeeker) joined the Mindanao Cosplay Summit Davao leg elimination and we were so happy that we were included in the top three. Next was the World Cosplay Summit Mindanao Conference that was held February within this year. The teams who won in the Davao leg would compete in the other cities and three teams would be selected as Mindanao representatives to compete with the representatives from Luzon and Visayas. And finally, WCS Philippines was held here in Davao city, July of this year. All of the representatives from Luzon and Visayas went here to compete. All of the teams were very competitive and their performances and costumes were really amazing!



We really didn't expect that our team would be called. Everyone did their best! We were really happy that we won and were chosen to represent Team Philippines on World Cosplay Summit 2016 stage that was held in Nagoya, Japan.

MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

The most fun experience I had related to cosplay was when our team went to Japan. It was a memorable one since it was my first time to travel overseas and I am happy that we represented Team Philippines in the World Cosplay Summit. We've stayed there for 11 days and each day, we went to different places. It was a great experience to talk to many cosplayers from different countries, get to hang out with them, and share experiences, ideas and exchange culture with everyone. We also made a Vlog of our everyday experience there so you could all view them on our Facebook page!

MOST REWARDING EXPERIENCE IN HUGE COSPLAY COMPETITIONS

The most rewarding thing for me in joining cosplay competitions is when I see people smile and when they recognize the character that I am portraying. It does not matter if I win or lose. What makes me happy is when I portray a character, people recognize who I am portraying, so seeing them smile makes me satisfied. It also makes me happy when they remember their childhood memories while I am cosplaying a certain character.

Aside from that, cosplay made me develop a different perspective in life. Some would say that cosplay is very childish but for me, it gave me a chance to express who I really am, my love for anime and show creativity which I believe, every individual possesses.

YUKARI'S OTHER HOBBIES

I would transform into a Nyan-cat~ Just kidding! I write stories, read books, or play either

online games or arcade games (I'm so addicted to crane games) during my free time. Wait—do you consider "Eating" as a hobby? Nyahahaha~ I REALLY LOVE TO EAT! Especially sweet stuff (like cakes, ice cream, crepes, etc.)

MESSAGE TO FOLLOWERS AND ASPIRING COSPLAYERS

Cosplaying paved the way to express myself—so I encourage you, cosplayers, to express your creativity and love for the character you are portraying. This will make you experience new things, be open to big opportunities, and meet other people who share the same hobby. Lastly, it will give you a chance to explore different places where you can share thoughts and love for Japanese culture especially cosplay with like-minded people.

I ask the cosplayers to continue their Love and Passion in cosplaying. Go beyond cosplay, portray good features of your favorite characters and share these qualities not only in the cosplay community in your country, but showcase these all over the world as well.

LIKE, FOLLOW, SHARE!

FB Page: "Endlesseight Cosplay"
www.facebook.com/StarSeekerYukariNiNaG
 WCS 2016 Team Philippines Page: "Team StarSeeker"
www.facebook.com/WCS2016TeamPhilippines
 YouTube account: "Yukari Ni-Na Guerzon"
 World Cosplay Account: "Yukari Ni-Na G."
<http://worldcosplay.net/en/member/46048>

Carrying the name of the country for a huge competition is not such a farfetched idea after all, and this was greatly proven by Yukari and everyone comprising of WCS. Her road to becoming one of the most renowned cosplayers in the cosplay community definitely makes us feel closer to Japan, which most of us consider our second country. It only goes to show the other side of cosplaying: it is not only a simple hobby that expresses love for a character, but also a form of communication among people from different countries.

Through the love of cosplay, Yukari has bridged the gap, if only a little, between the Philippines and Japan. As her popularity visibly grows, Yukari will continue to serve as an inspiration for young people to pursue their hobbies and passion.

Yukari would like to thank the following photographers:

Dexter Arcenas, Trike Jupista, shutterpuppy Photography,

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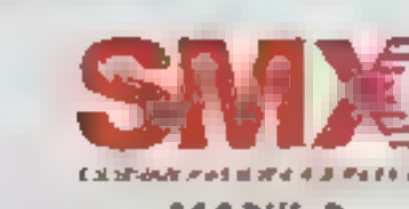
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101 COSPLAY HACKS

by Yani

01. Wigs

Most wigs that we buy needs trimming even if you bought the wig specifically for the character that you will cosplay. It will not guarantee that what you see on the photo when worn on mannequin head it means that it will arrive how does it look like from the photo. If you're afraid to cut your wig, ask help from your friends about or go to a salon and have it a haircut.

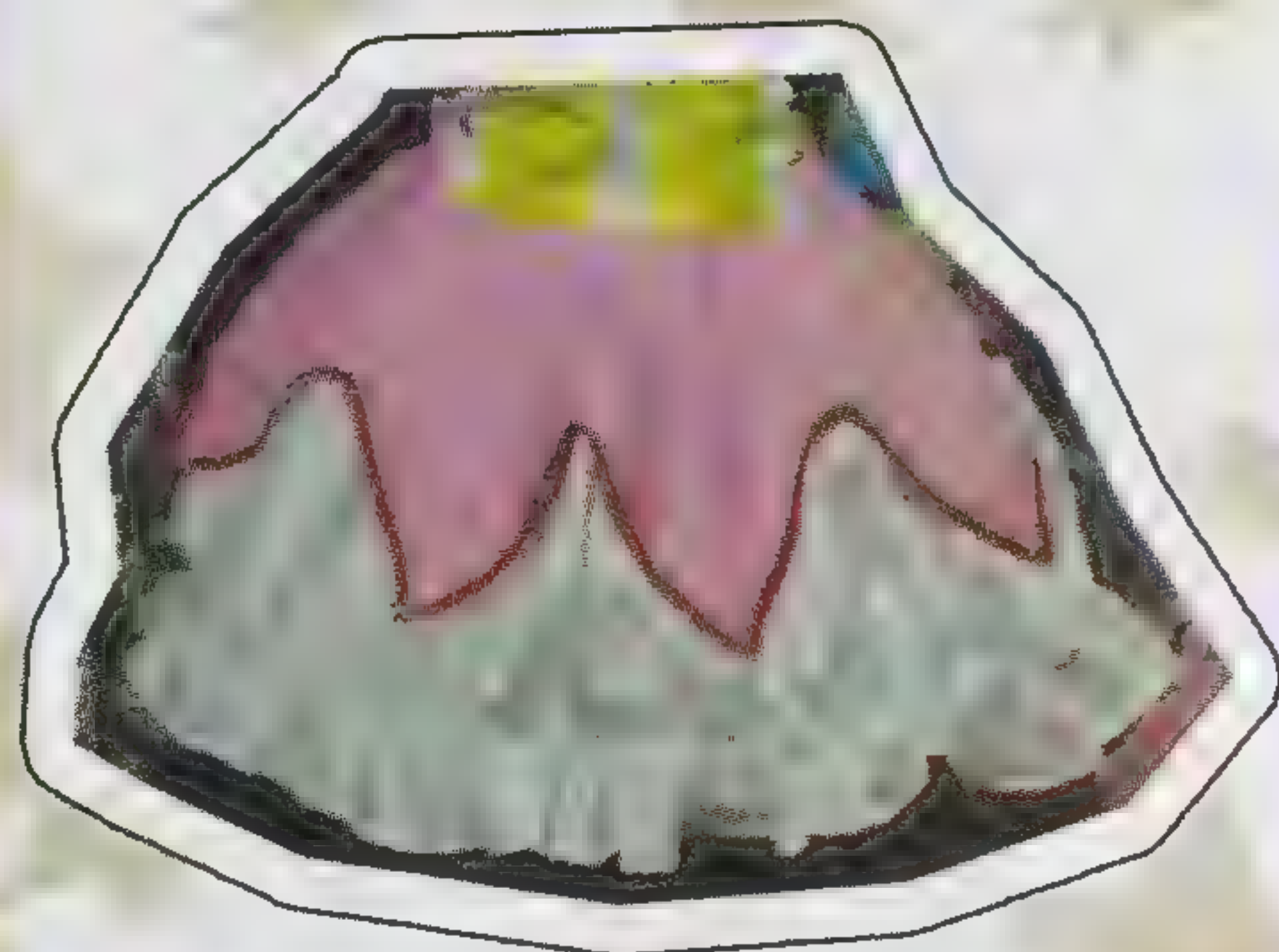
If you're cosplaying a character that has spikes on his/her hair, I recommend you to buy frizzed top wigs since its easier to style. You can use hair wax, hair gels, hairsprays but remember to wash your wig after.



02. Petticoat

Petticoats helps giving volume to your costumes, especially to the skirt part. You can make your own or have your tailor do it for you. If you really want to make your skirt puffy, use the hard tulle for it.

You can buy tulle at any fabric stores. The default color of it is white. You can also use the soft one but it needs more yards to make it puffy.



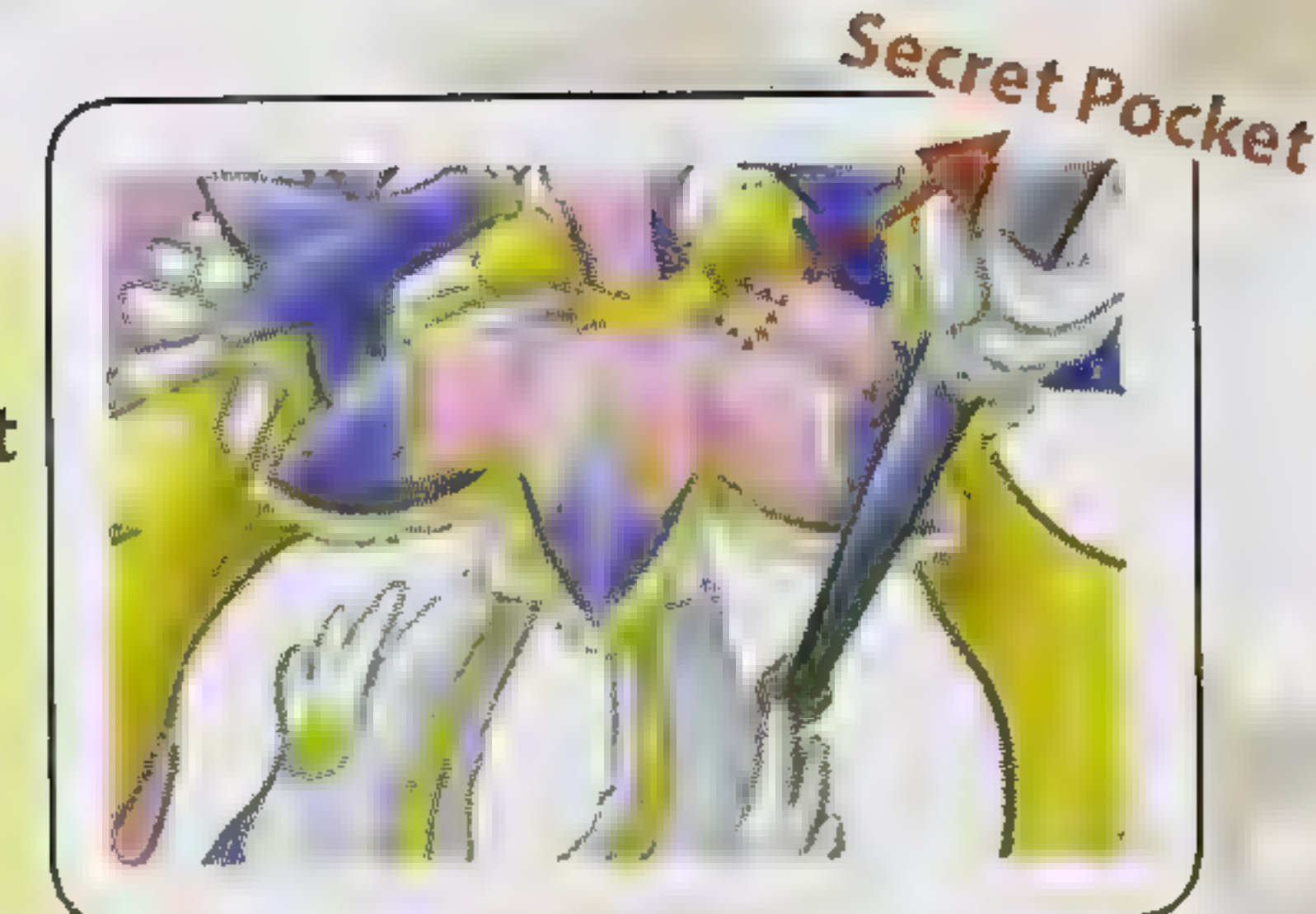
03. Base Make-up

Doing make up when cosplaying takes time so most of us do it before going to conventions. There are times that we cannot avoid the times where a convention is hot which makes us sweaty and out make-up to wash out. Using the waterproof ones is already a help but using primer will help greatly. It reduces sweat or you won't even sweat! Well it depends on your skin type. You just apply a pint size then spread all over your face and wait for it to dry. Then apply the cosmetics you usually put. Take note that this also enhances the visibility of the make up. Be sure to wash your face after cosplaying~



04. Secret Pockets

With the things happening lately at conventions, we must bring our valuable items like cellphone and wallet wherever we go. Most of the time we carry them with our hand and there tendencies that we drop it or misplaced it. Having pockets within your costume will be a great help and as much as possible, have it made on places where no one knows except you.

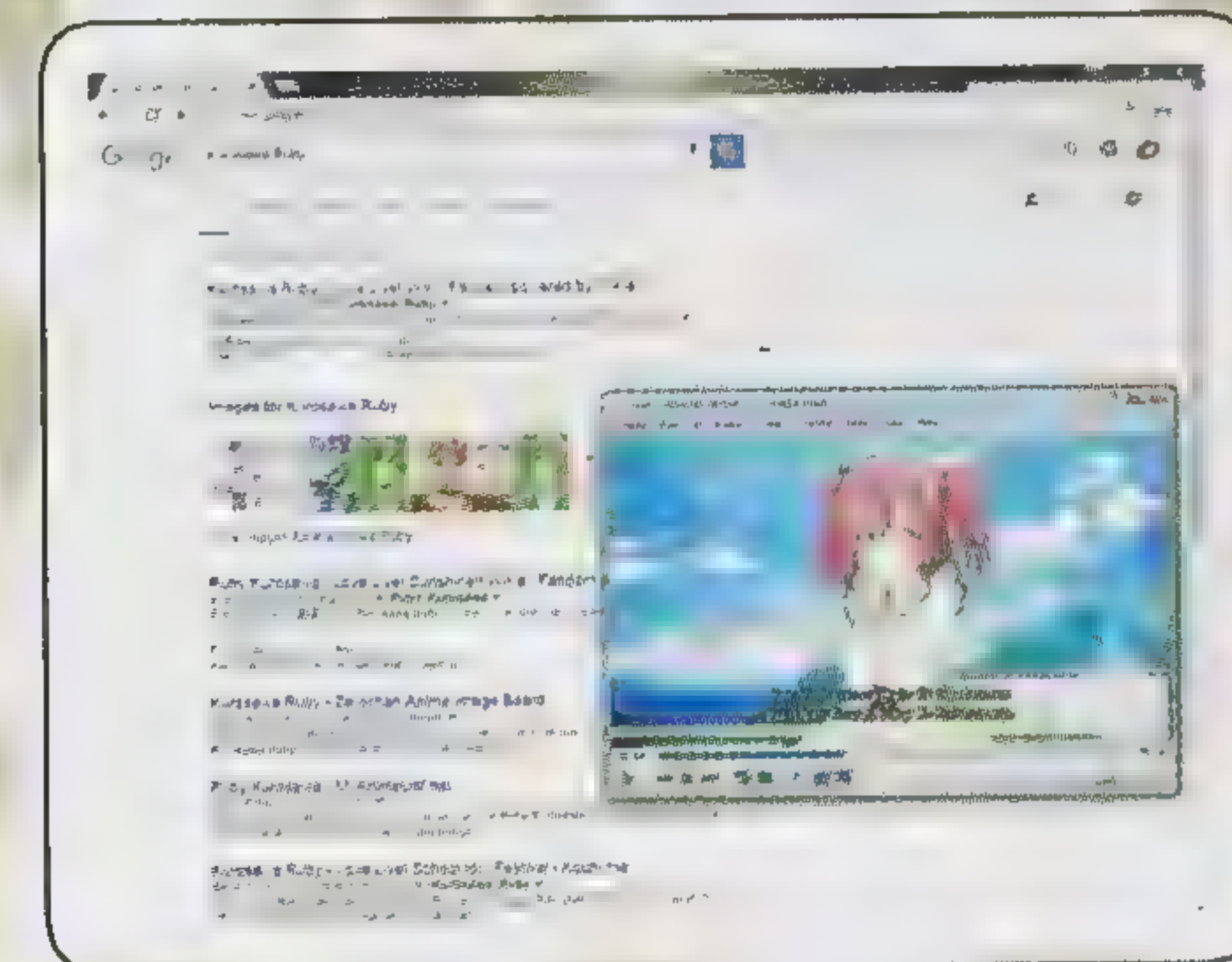


05. Emergency Kit!

Accidents may happen anytime so it's a good thing to be prepared. Greco/shoe glue for unexpected armor/weapon damage, safety pins for costume malfunction (damages buttons, zippers, etc), Extra and bobbin pins for your wig. Band-aids also were a great help whenever our shoes scratches the back part of our lower legs.

06. Know your Cosplay

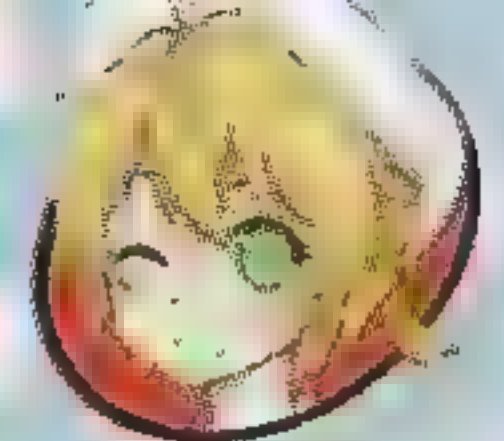
Being in character is mportant in cosplaying but there some cosplayers who don't know who the character they are cosplaying, only the name. I'm not against with them cosplaying but to encourage them to study the character that they are portraying. 30min-1hour wouldn't hurt right? Search over the internet or watch an episode where the character is. It doesn't have to be that your fan of the particular anime and character but at least you know about it.



07. Time Management

It's a good thing to start preparing at least 2 months before the event. Choose your wig have it ordered ahead of time since we cannot tell if there will be delays with the delivery and ordering. Buying wig on the event itself is not recommended since you cannot tell if the shops during the convention caters the wig you need. If you will be having your costume/props made/preordered, make sure also its ahead of time. If you will do your own costume/props, buy materials ahead of time and make sure to have a list so you won't forget anything. I'm sure that all of us wouldn't want to cancel our cosplan for a certain convention because of not meeting being able to do the things listed above.





OTAKU LIFE HACKS

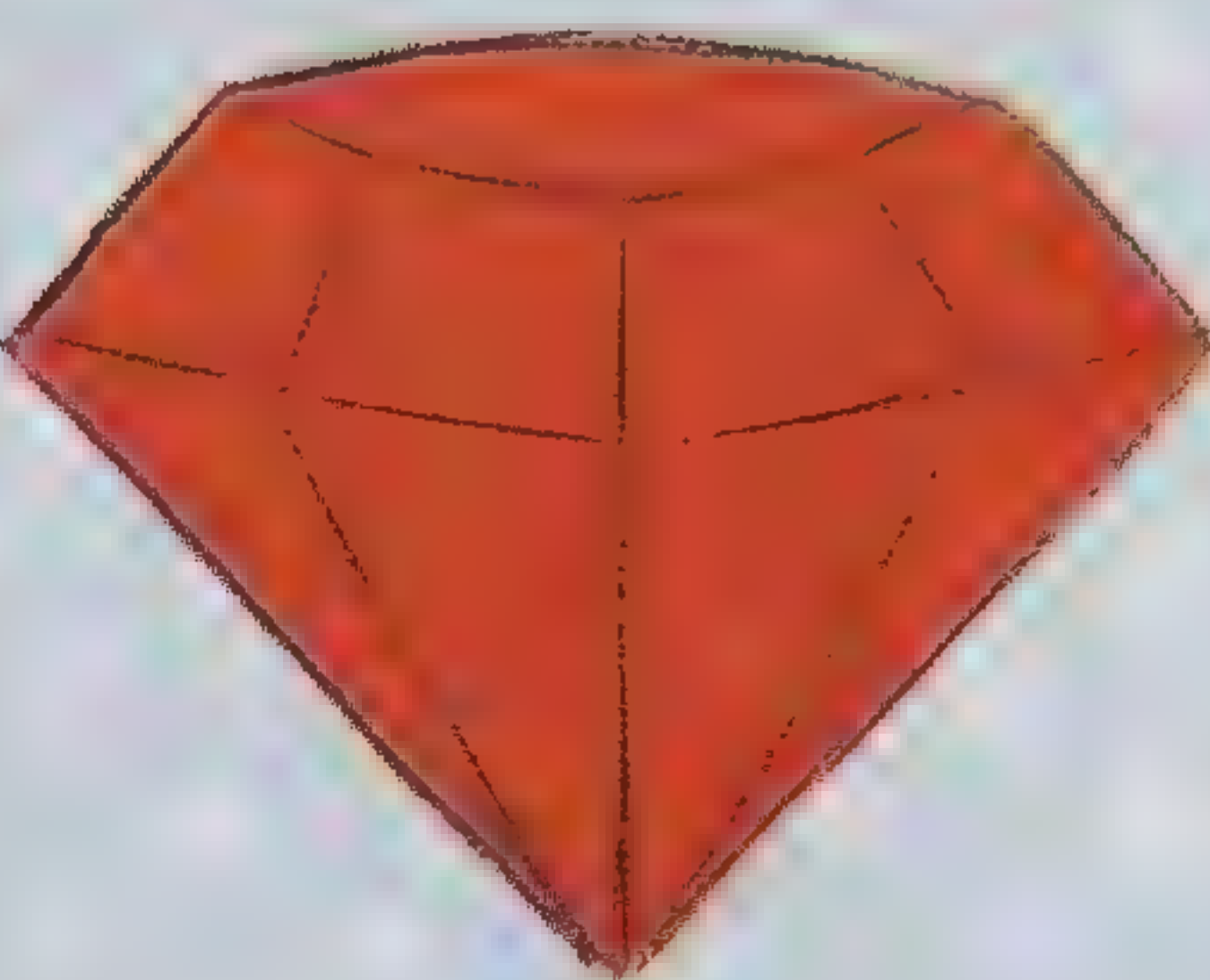
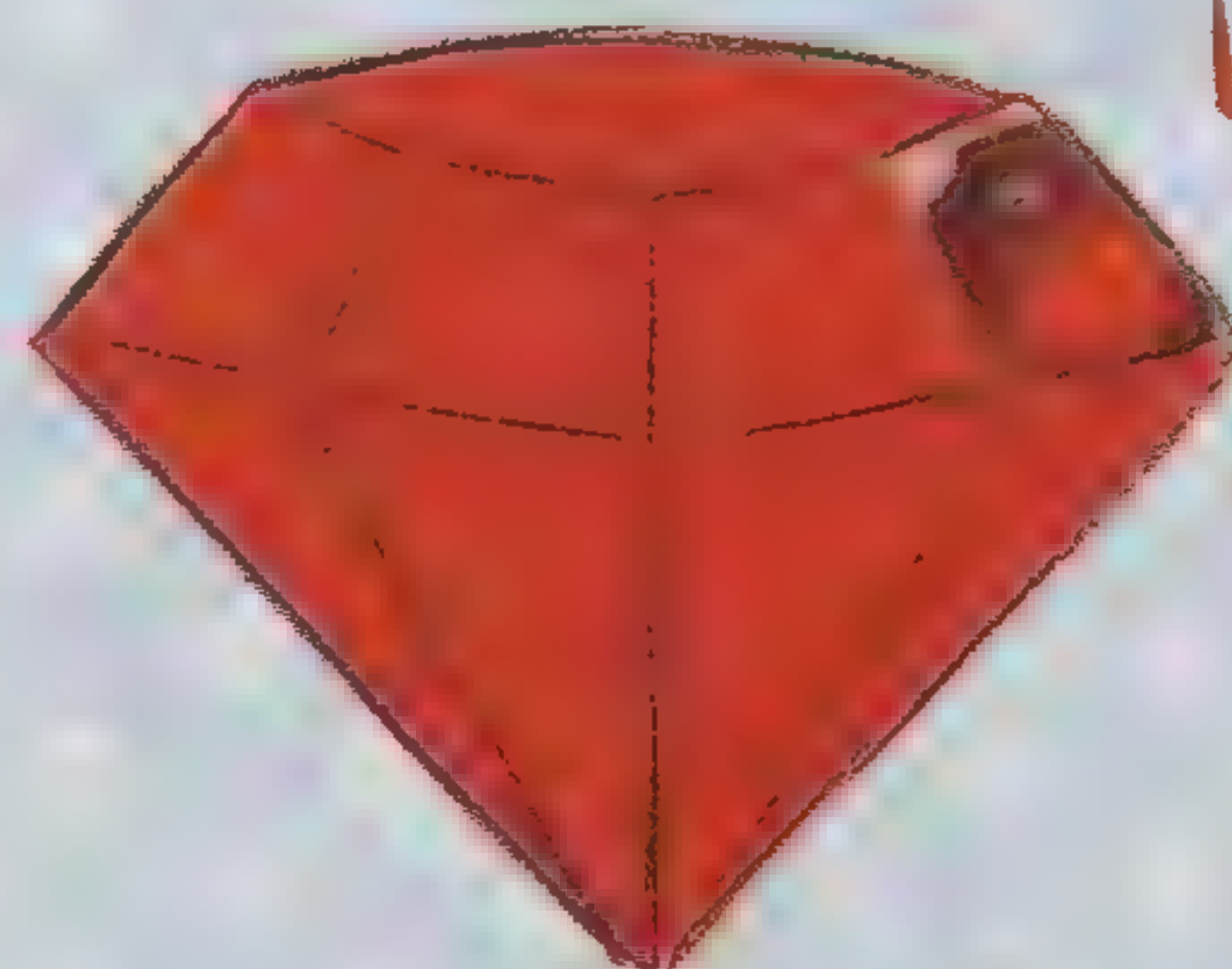
PATTERN AND EFFECT TUTORIAL

tutorial by Xander

GEM EFFECT:

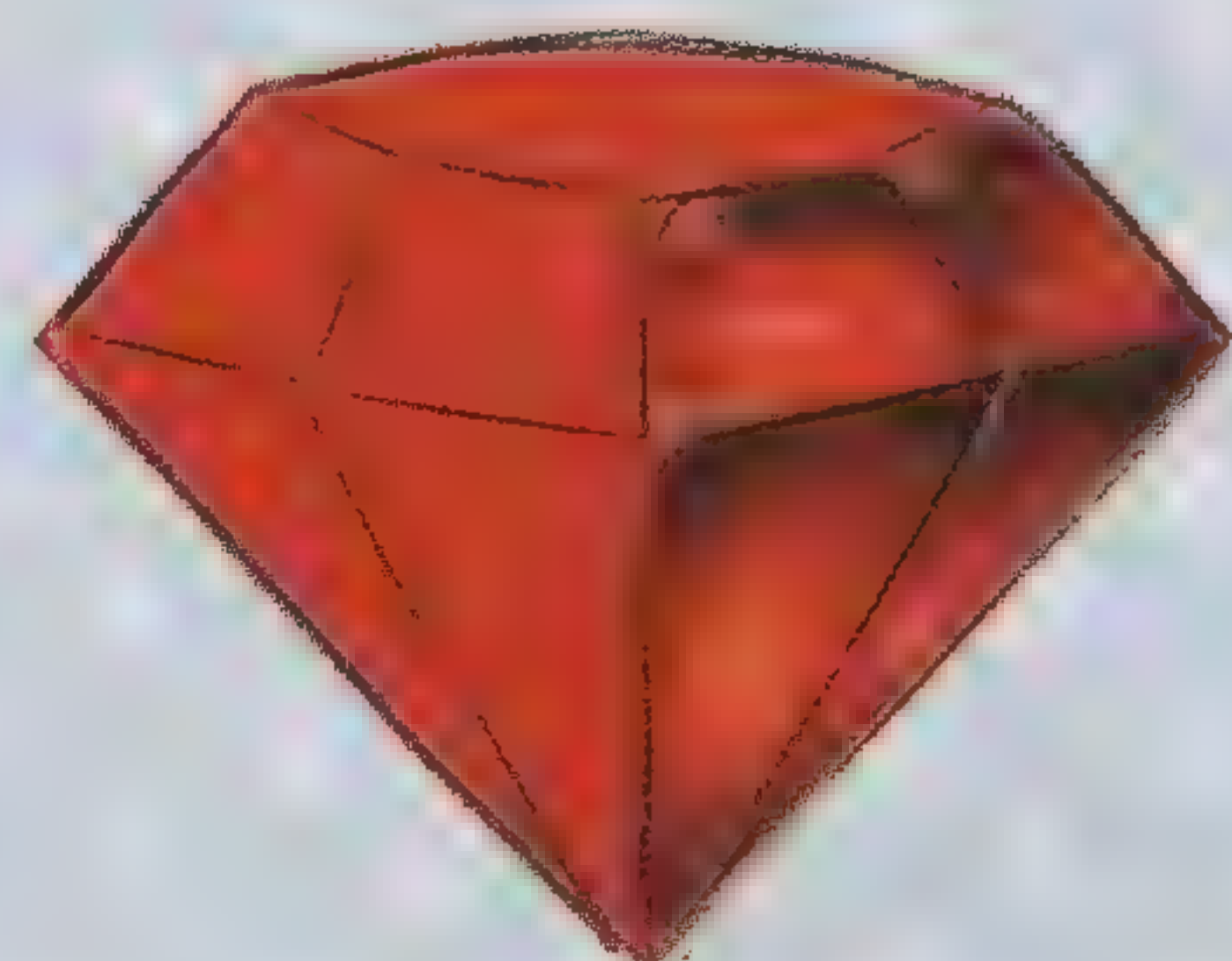


Sketch up a diamond shape or any gemstone of your choice.

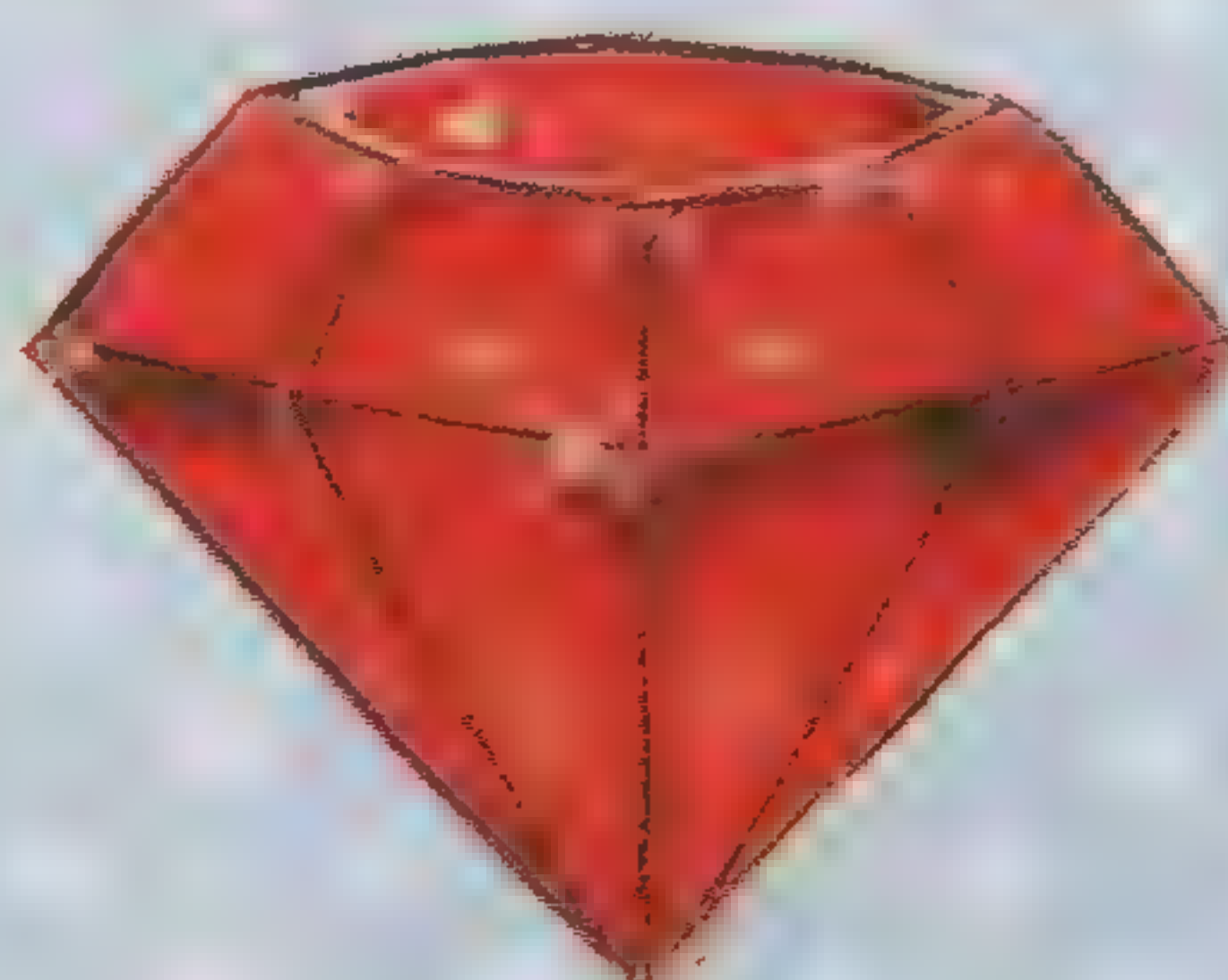


Add your desired base color

Imagine you're coloring a sphere shape orb on every side. I mostly use airbrush to add gradient effect.

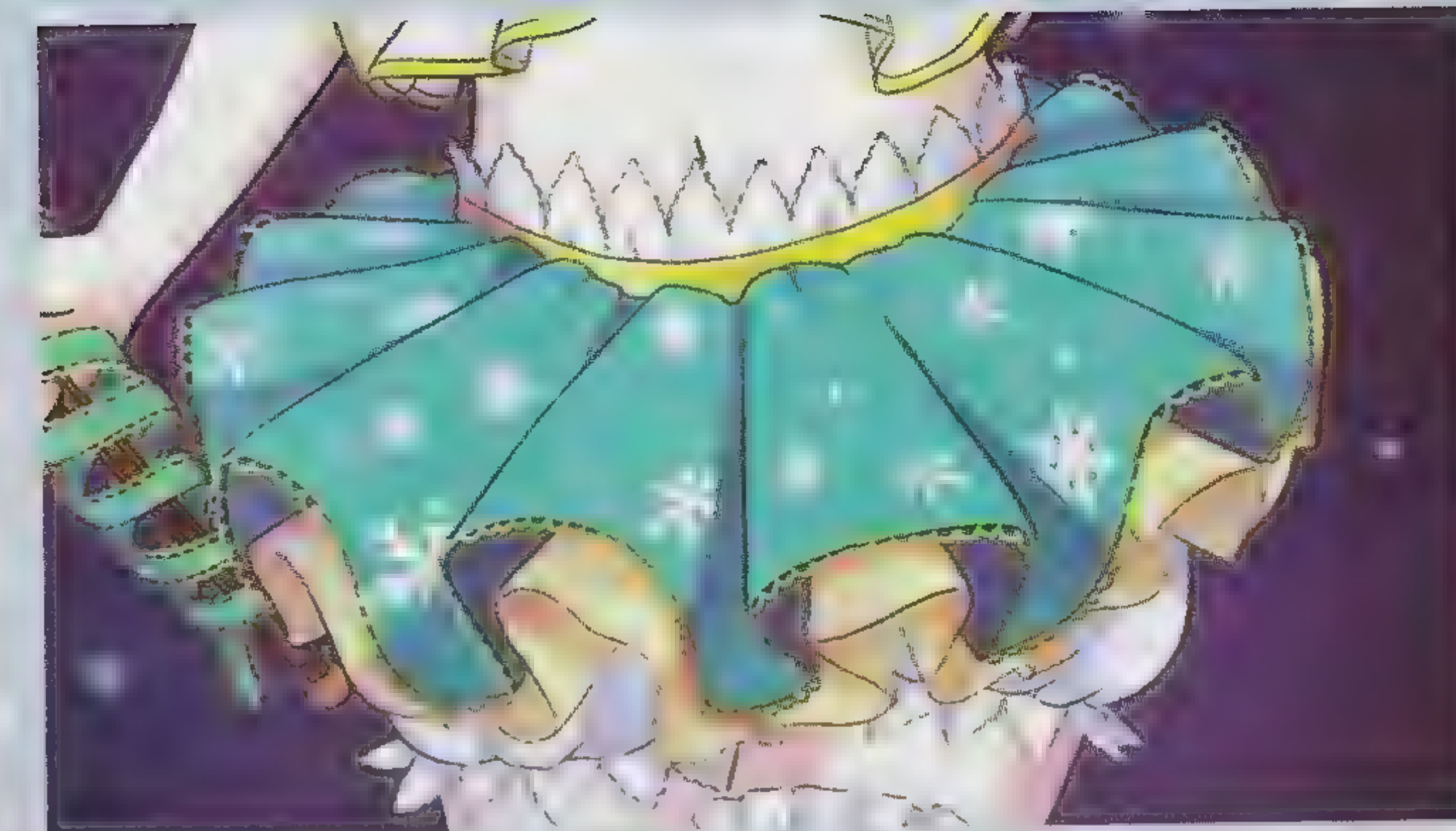


Keep doing it on the remaining sides.



Add small details and put some sparkles on some edges. Clip a "glow layer" the use airbrush to have a glowing effect.

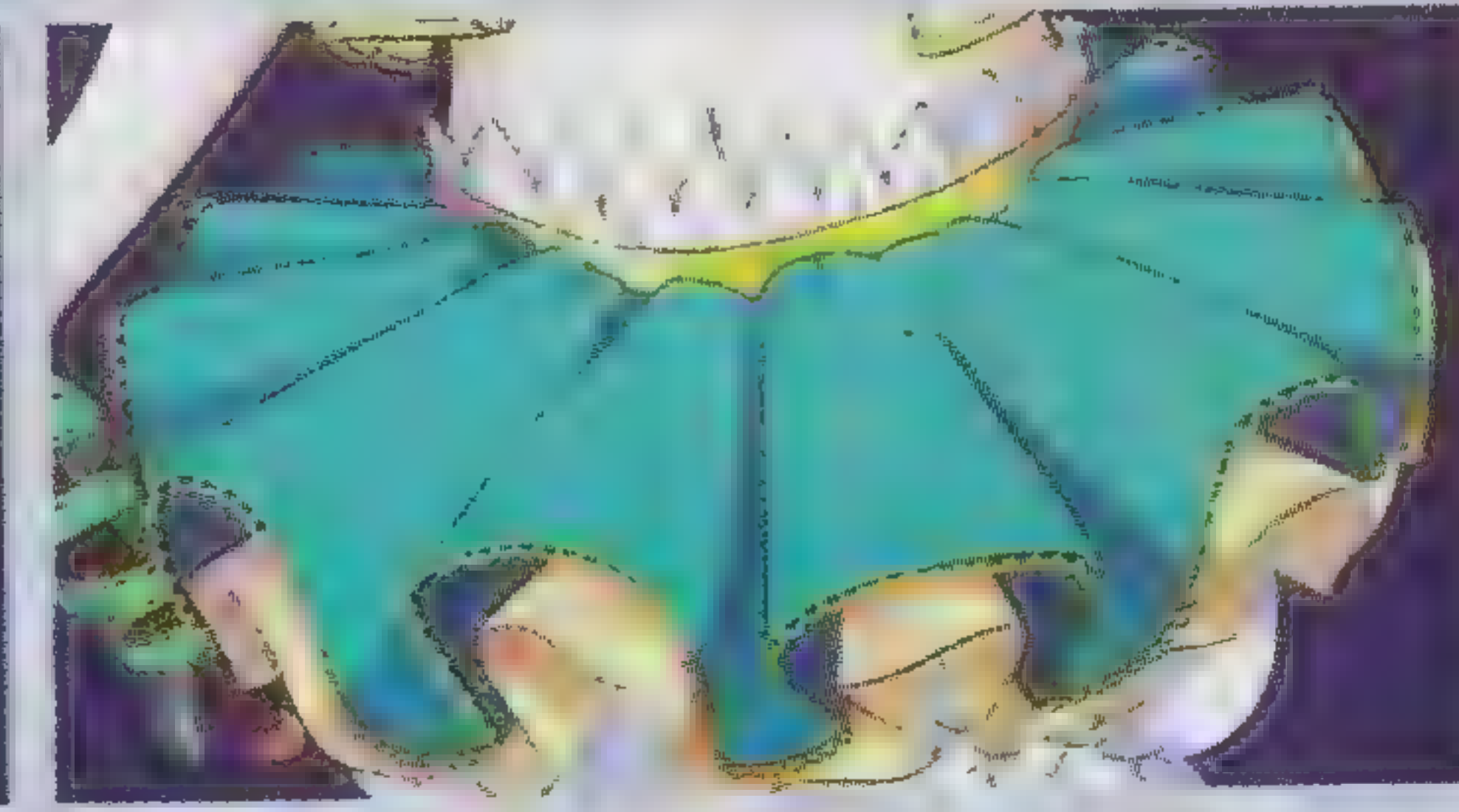
PATTERN ON SKIRT:



I'll use my Christmas Snowman Kotori fanart on this tutorial. But first, you need some illustrations: snowflakes, dots, sparkles.



[Base color for skirt]



Clip a multiply layer, then add the shading. Use soft eraser to have gradient effect.



Clip another layer below the multiply layer, then add random dots. You can use pencil or brush tool. To do this, just change its size from time to time.



Now add the snowflakes pattern. Clip another layer (glow) above the multiply layer. Use airbrush to add some glowing effects.



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In this world, there are people born with Abilities- supernatural powers. There are those who use them to protect and those who use it for their own gain.

The Armed Detective Agency is an agency specializing in objectives that cannot be entrusted to the likes of the police or the military. A twilight armed force positioned between the world of night and day... according to the rumors Atsushi heard.

Atsushi Nakajima is an orphan who recently joined the Agency thanks to Dazai and Kunikida. In the first season of Bungou Stray Dogs, he was introduced to the rest of the members and to their common enemy, the Port Mafia.

After a season of waiting, the continuation of the story is now here. In this second season, who will they have to face?

ATSUSHI NAKAJIMA

(Yuyo Uemura)

[Beast Beneath the Moonlight]

He has the ability to transform into a white tiger. While he had done a full transformation in the first episode, he has only done partial transformations since joining the agency but now with greater control and skill.

On his head is a 7 billion yen bounty placed by The Guild for reasons yet to be explained. Despite having a low self esteem, Atsushi has shown great selflessness and apathy that has saved him and other members of the agency.

In the third season, expect Atsushi to become more assertive as the Armed Detective Agency gains both allies and enemies.

Fukuzawa Yukichi

(Rikiya Koyama)

[All Men are Equal]

The President of Armed Detective Agency. While his abilities have not yet been revealed, he is Kunikida's master and has never lost.

Kunikida Doppo

(Yoshimasa Hosoya)

[Lone Poet]

One of the most beautiful traits he has shown in the first season is his guilt. Kunikida is a practical man and works well together beside Dazai.

Dazai Osamu

(Mamoru Miyano)

[No Longer Human]

Former Mafia Executive, he is usually the agency's top detective and now's comic relief. In the second season, he becomes the bridge between the Agency and the Armed Detective

Edogawa Ranpo

[-n/a-]

In the first season, it's revealed that his so-called Ability, Super Deduction, is simply because Ranpo is highly gifted in investigation. It will later be explained.

Tanizaki Junichirou

[Light Snow]

Miyazawa Kenji

[Undefeated by the Rain]

Yosano Akiko

[Thou Shalt Not Die]

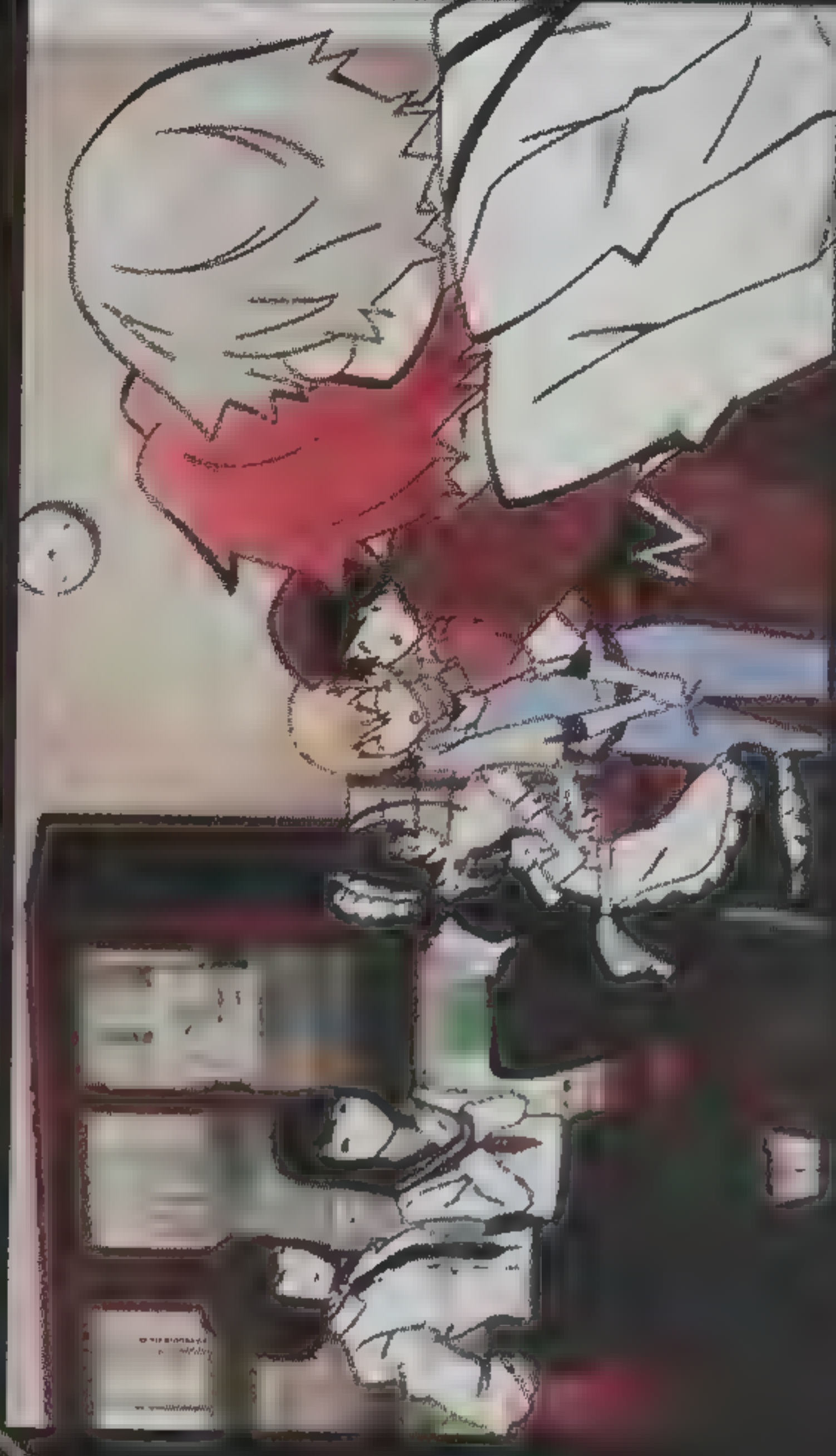
Tanizaki Naomi

[-n/a-]

Izumi Kyouka

[Snow Demon]

Agency's most recent and youngest member but has not yet been given the entrance exam.



In the 12th episode last season, the leader of Port Mafia was revealed along with the introduction of The Guild. In this new season, Port Mafia is at war for their foothold in Yokohama City.

Akutagawa Ryunosuke [Kenshō Ono]

[Rashomon]

As the Mafia's "dog", he is very active in committing crimes and various acts of violence. In the first season he is shown to have anger and jealousy towards Atsushi. After hearing Dazai praise Atsushi over him and his defeat, the hostility has grown since.

This season, he will be even more irrational and angry. However, is there a possibility of an alliance and acceptance perhaps?

Mafia Members

Ozaki Kouyou [Golden Demon]

She was the mentor of Kyōka Izumi.

Ryurou Hirotsu [Falling Camellia]

Commander of the Black Lizard, a small branch of the Mafia. He is cruel towards even his own co-workers.

Higuchi Ichiyou [-n/a-]

Because there has been no mention of her abilities, it has been assumed that she has none. She is very loyal to Akutagawa and stands as his bodyguard and assistant.

Kajii Motojirou [Lemon Bomb]

Gin [-n/a-]

Tachihara Michizou [-n/a-]

Ougai Mori [Mitsuru Miyamoto]

[Vita Sexualis]

He is called the 'embodiment of logic' by Dazai as the Mafia boss keeps calm in any situation. He is cunning and composed but also cruel and merciless. While his Ability has not been revealed, he has demonstrated an incredibly strong murderous intent in last season's episode.



Nakahara Chūya [Kishō Taniyama]

[For the Tainted Sorrow]

When Chūya was introduced last season, he was mostly treated as a comic relief. He is angry at Dazai for leaving the Mafia and even joining the Agency. He and Dazai were once partners known as Soukoku - 双黒 (double black).

He is the strongest martial artist in the Mafia and his ability lets him manipulate gravity. He can make gravitons and alter the gravity of anything he touches.

The other form of his Ability, Corruption, will be revealed in the new season.

The Guild is an American Secret Society who has come to Japan to acquire the Agency's Ability Business Permit. They were also the ones that has placed a 7 million Yen bounty on Atsushi's head. Headed by Fitzgerald, they launch a war on both Port Mafia and Armed Detective Agency.

Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald [Takahiro Sakurai]

[The Great Fitzgerald]

Arrogant and confident. From his short introduction last season, it shows that he is also unforgiving of failures within The Guild as shown by Lucy's great fear of returning to the Guild without Atsushi.

He has a soft side toward his family as he raids Yokohama for their sake. His ability will be revealed this season.

Guild Members

Lucy Maud Montgomery [Anne of Abyssal Red]

After being treated poorly in the orphanage, she has a twisted personality. Her ability allows her to create an alternate reality, "Anne's Room" where she has imprisoned people.

John Steinbeck [The Grapes of Wrath]

To carry out a mission, he becomes very cunning and merciless.

Howard Phillips Lovecraft [The Great Old Ones]

For the Yokohama raid, he is partnered with John to fulfill several missions. He is able to transform into a monster with tentacles. He is a very odd person.

Nathaniel Hawthorne [The Scarlet Letter]

Margaret Mitchell [Gone with the Wind]

Mark Twain [Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer]

Bungou Stray Dogs is first a manga of the same name written by Kafka Asagiri and published in Young Ace magazine. The 12 episode anime is produced by Bones. The second season's opening theme is "Reason Living" by SCREEN mode and "Kaze ga Fuku machi (The Town Where the Wind Blows)" by Luck Life.

As you may have already noticed, the characters and their Abilities are heavily named after actual authors and literature. Their personalities are based on either the author or their characters which makes them non clichéd and likeable. While you may expect action and fights in a mystery, supernatural genre, Bungou leans more to the comedy with jokes and chibi animations. This can be both entertaining and annoying but keep at it and you will begin to better appreciate the well choreographed action scenes when they happen.

Since the first season was generally set for character introductions and character establishment, you should expect action in the upcoming season as more antagonists enter the scene.

A new group, The Guild, is in town and threatens the whole of Yokohama. The Armed Detective Agency is faced with enemies from both sides and could lead them to make desperate decisions. While the Port Mafia will surely not give up their foothold to some outsiders, they face a three-way war.

The second season is understood to be the last part of the anime series. We have to wait and see up till where the anime story will go since the manga is still ongoing and is starting a new story arc.

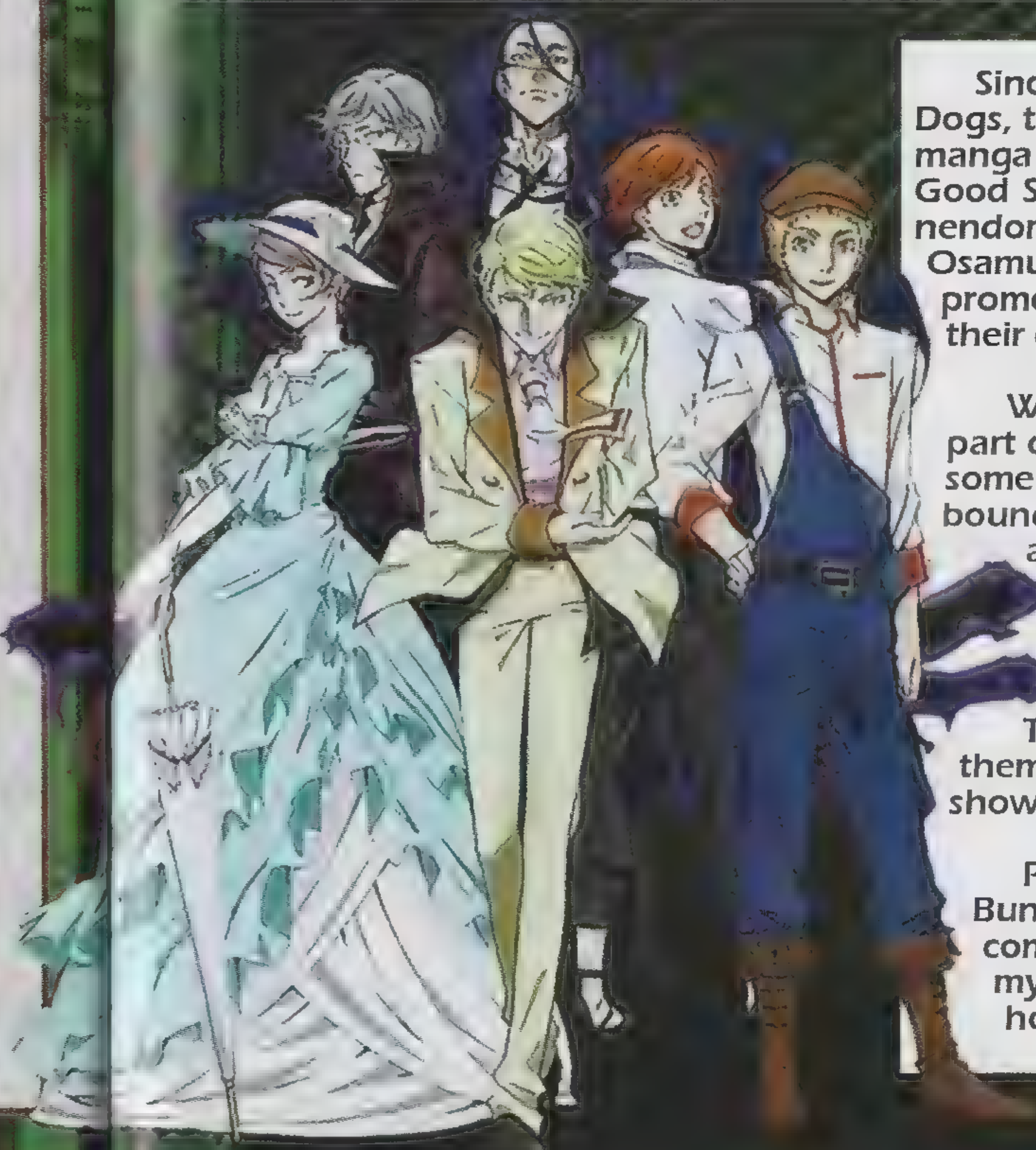
The anime will be streamed by Crunchyroll and simulcasted by Aniplus HD.

Since the first episode of Bungou Stray Dogs, the popularity of the anime and the manga rose to unexpected proportions. Good Smile Company has announced the nendoroids of two of the characters (Dazai Osamu and Chuya Nakahara) and many promos have been set up in Japan and their convenience stores.

While the comedy, chibi and slapstick part of the show may have turned away some action-loving viewers, they are bound to come back for this new season as the stakes have risen. Since this is a Bones production, the scenes are well coordinated and animated. The characters have this sense of seriousness depth.

The music is appropriate to the themes and various scenes that the show tends to have.

Personally, I am biased towards Bungou because I'm weak to comedy+action but I managed to make my brother follow the series and I hope that you do try as well!





CHARACTER BIO

ruby kurosawa

by: Yani

CV: Ai Furihata

Birthday: Sept. 21 Zodiac Sign: Virgo

Occupation: School Idol

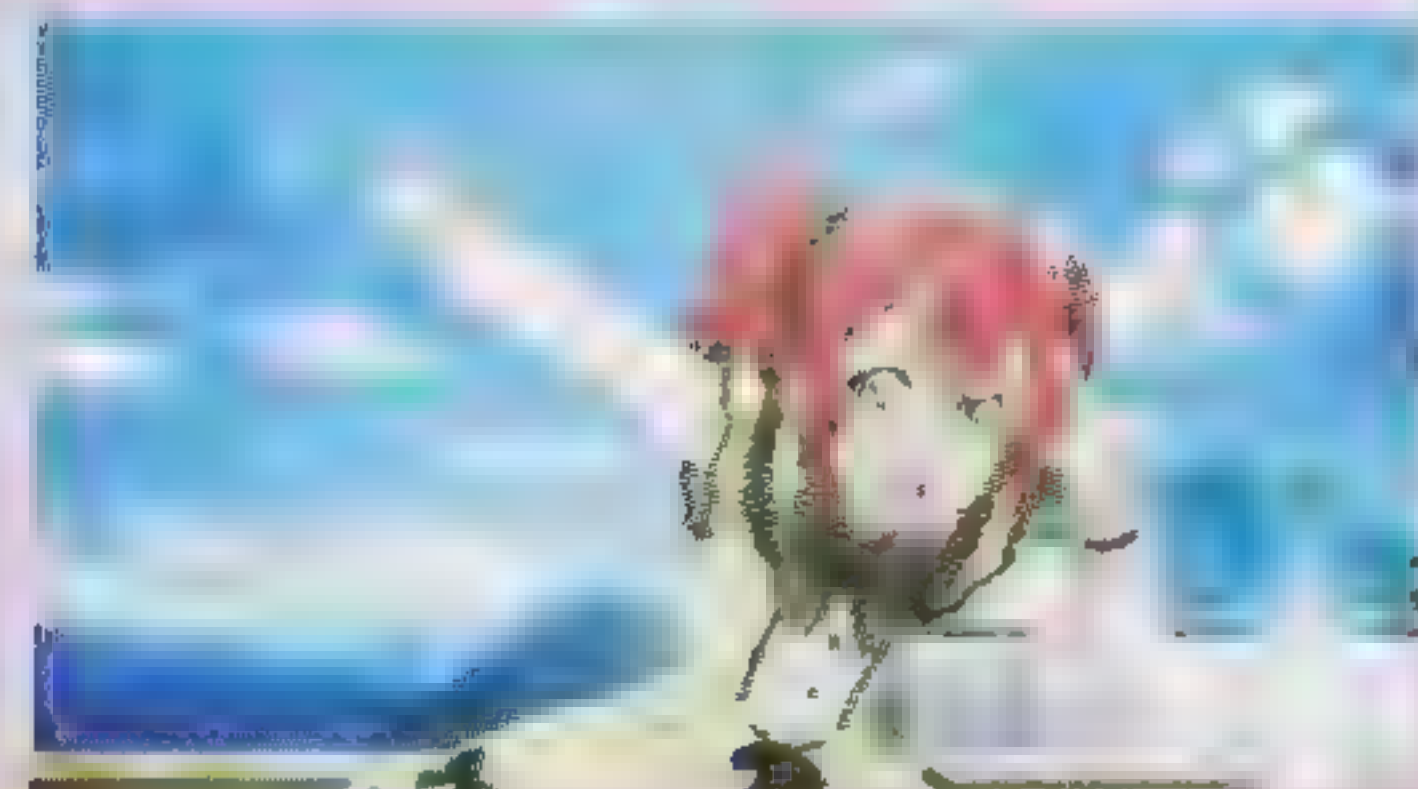
Blood Type: A Height: 154 cm

Favorite Food: French Fries,
Sweet Potatoes

Disliked Food: Wasabi

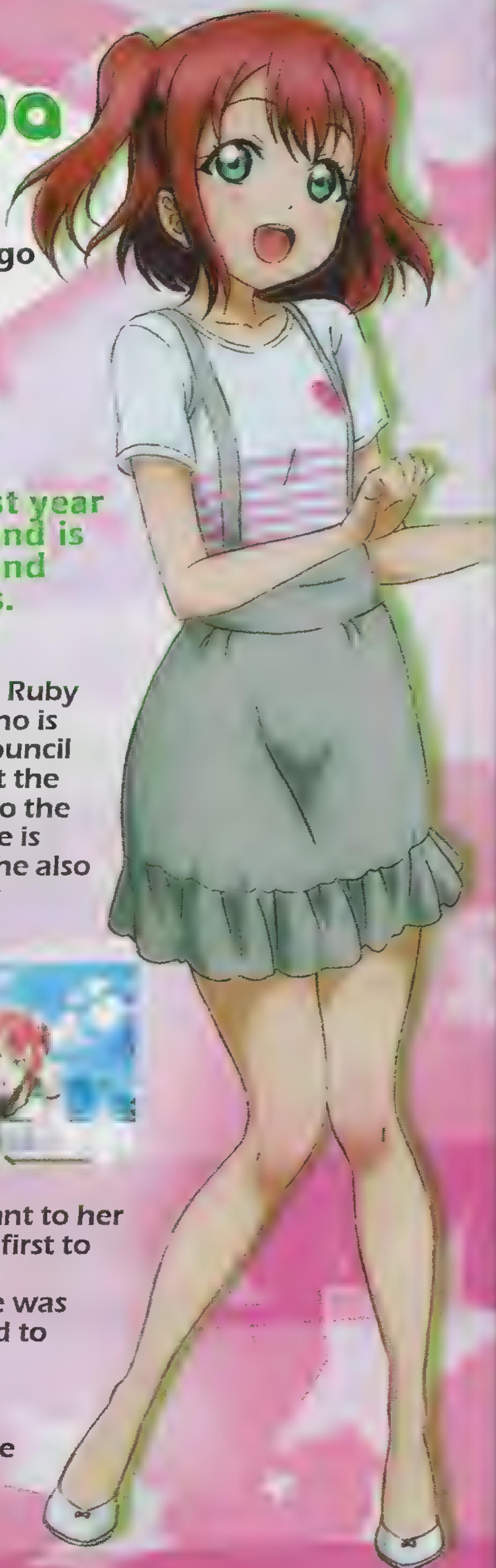
Ganbaruby! Ruby Kurosawa is a first year at Uranohoshi Girl's High school and is currently a member of Aqours and CYaRon!, a sub-unit of Aqours. Her color image is magenta.

Despite coming from a traditional family, Ruby admires idols together with her sister Dia who is also a member of Aqours and the student council president of Uranohoshi Girls High school at the same time. Ruby is extremely a shy person; to the point where she will run away whenever she is being filmed, someone will talk to her and she also screams whenever someone will make body contact with her unexpectedly.



Ruby deeply cares for the people important to her especially her sister Dia. She was hesitant at first to join the group since it might hurt her sister's feelings but because of Hanamaru's talk, she was able to tell her true feelings; that she wanted to join the idol club.

She joined Aqours together with her bestfriend Hanamaru. She is also notably one of the popular members of Aqours; being referred having a cute smile and Mari called her at one point "pretty bomber head!"



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Aqours

(pronounced as "Aqua") consists of nine girls: three from each year level of the Uranohoshi Girls' Academy. Just like μ 's, they decided to enter Love Live and use their growing popularity to get more incoming students for their school.

Their group name is a reference to their location being near the ocean

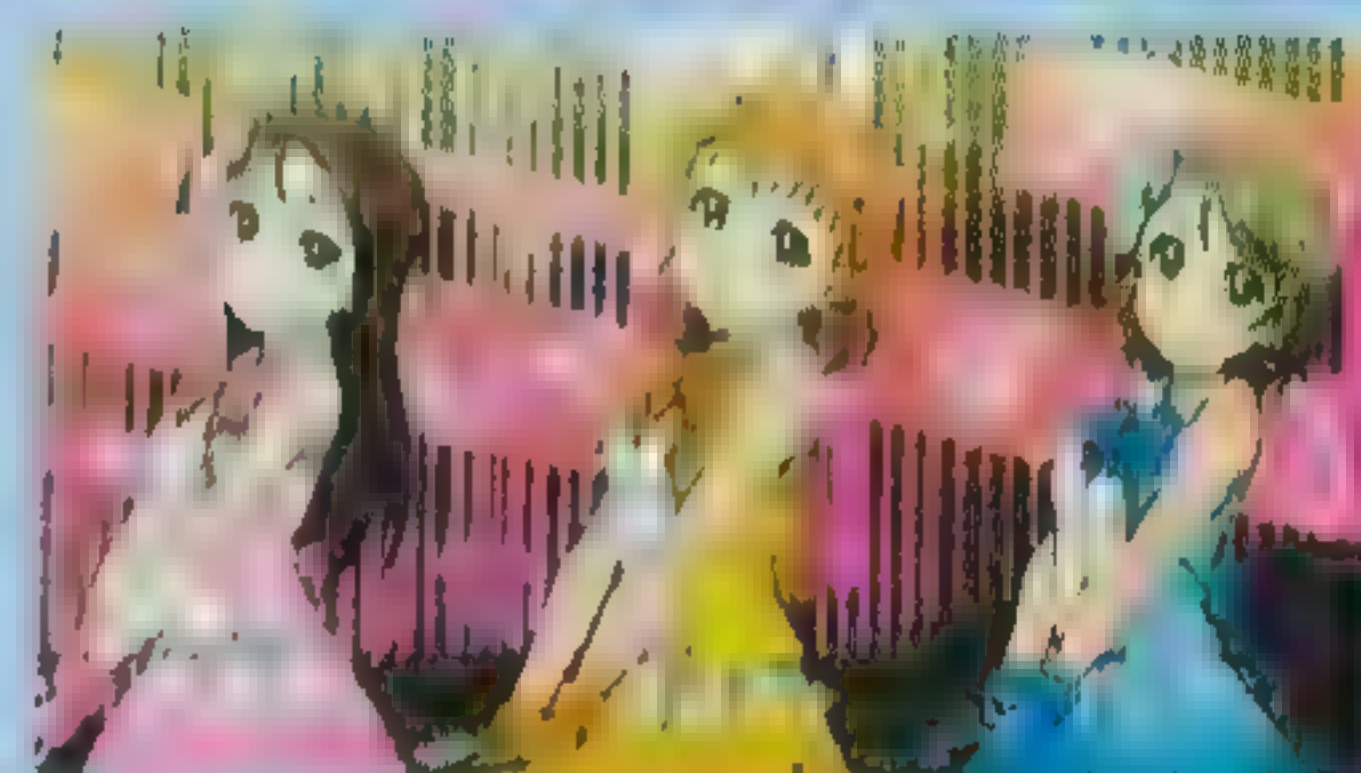
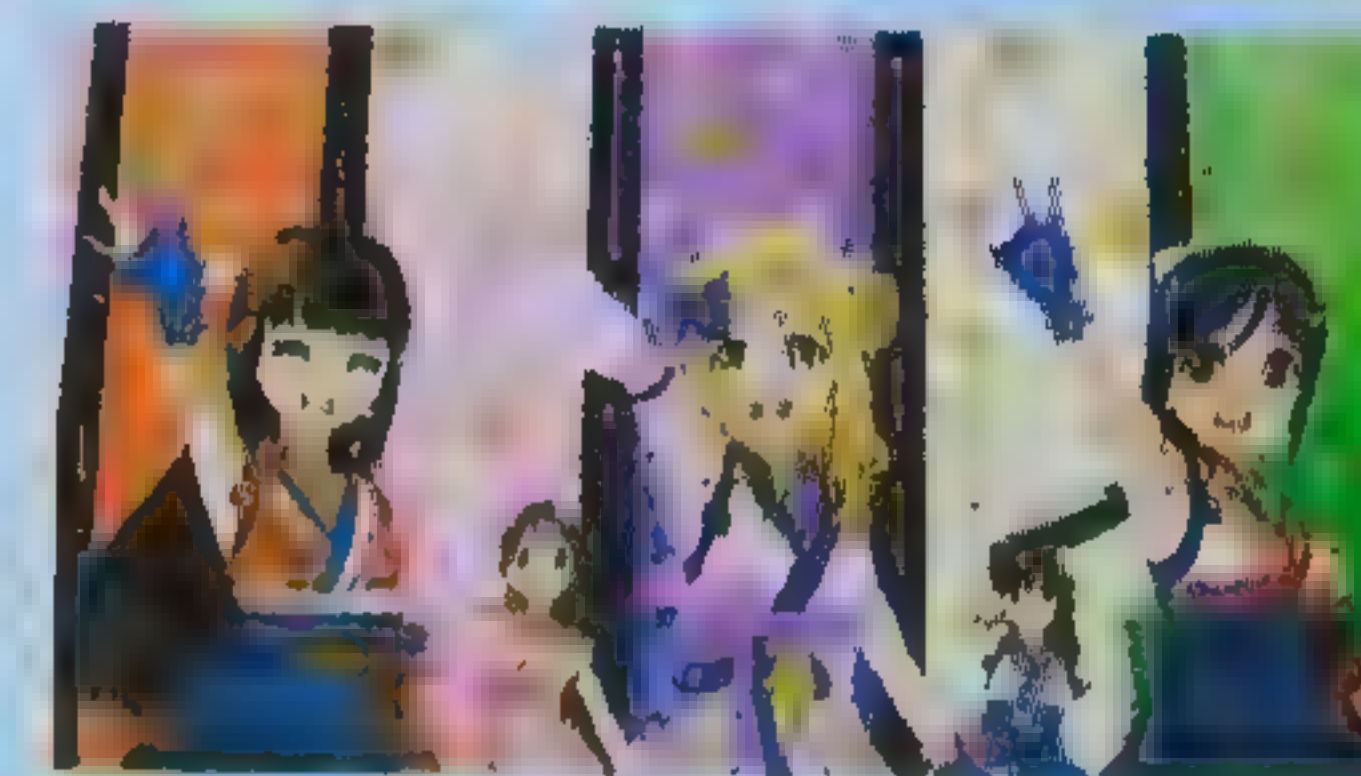
MAIDENS BY THE OCEANSIDE

By Reikisha

Chika Takami always believed that she was too ordinary compared to others and feels like there's nothing that can keep her interested. This mindset changed after she witnessed one of μ 's performances in Akihabara. Seeing μ 's for the first time inspired Chika to gather promising members of her soon-to-be idol group, thinking that this may be the only thing that she wants to do with all her heart. But when the news about Uranohoshi Girls' Academy getting closed down and merged with another school came out, she now aims to promote their school to prevent it from happening.

To save their school, Chika and her friends must become popular enough and emerge as the next champion of the biggest idol group competition in Japan: Love Live.

Love Live! Sunshine!! is a spin-off series developed by ASCII Media Works' Dengeki G's Magazine, Lantis, and Sunrise. The series premiered in July 2, 2016 and was scheduled to have a total of 13 episodes. The Sunshine!! Project was launched last April 2015 with music CDs and promotional videos, followed by a manga version this 2016.



REVIEW

Love Live! Sunshine!! portrays the struggle of a rural-based idol group to become one of the best idol groups in Japan in-order to save their school. What probably disappointed a lot of people was the recycled plot and the pace of the story can be either too slow or too fast. Not to mention that the series' main group called "Aqours" also consists of nine girls with physical traits that somehow reminds the audience of the girls from μ 's.

Sunshine was able to prove that it's more than just a fanservice show by focusing on character development. Since the main characters looked like they're plain high school girls with no defined personality at the beginning, having the girls interact more with each other and experience real-life struggles gave the audience a deeper understanding of the characters and made them feel relatable. As for the soundtrack, Aqours gives off a youthful and energetic vibe by utilizing synthesizers and electronic sounds instead of traditional instruments. Some parts of their choreography often involves semi-acrobatic moves to add spice to the song's PV. Both their music style and choreography definitely made it clear that Aqours is a unique idol group that shouldn't be compared to μ 's all the time. Both the character and background design are as visually stunning as ever. Sunrise did a great job with portraying the beauty of Numazu in Shizuoka prefecture and have some of Aqours' performances set in the said location.

Overall, Love Live!! Sunshine is still an enjoyable series to watch despite it starting off as a carbon copy of the original. It's also a reminder to the veteran fans of the series that there's no escape in the Love Live fandom. As for the casual fans out there, please give Aqours a chance and listen to some of their songs. Sunshine may be 13 episodes long, but with overwhelming support from people all over the world, it's guaranteed that a second season will come soon!

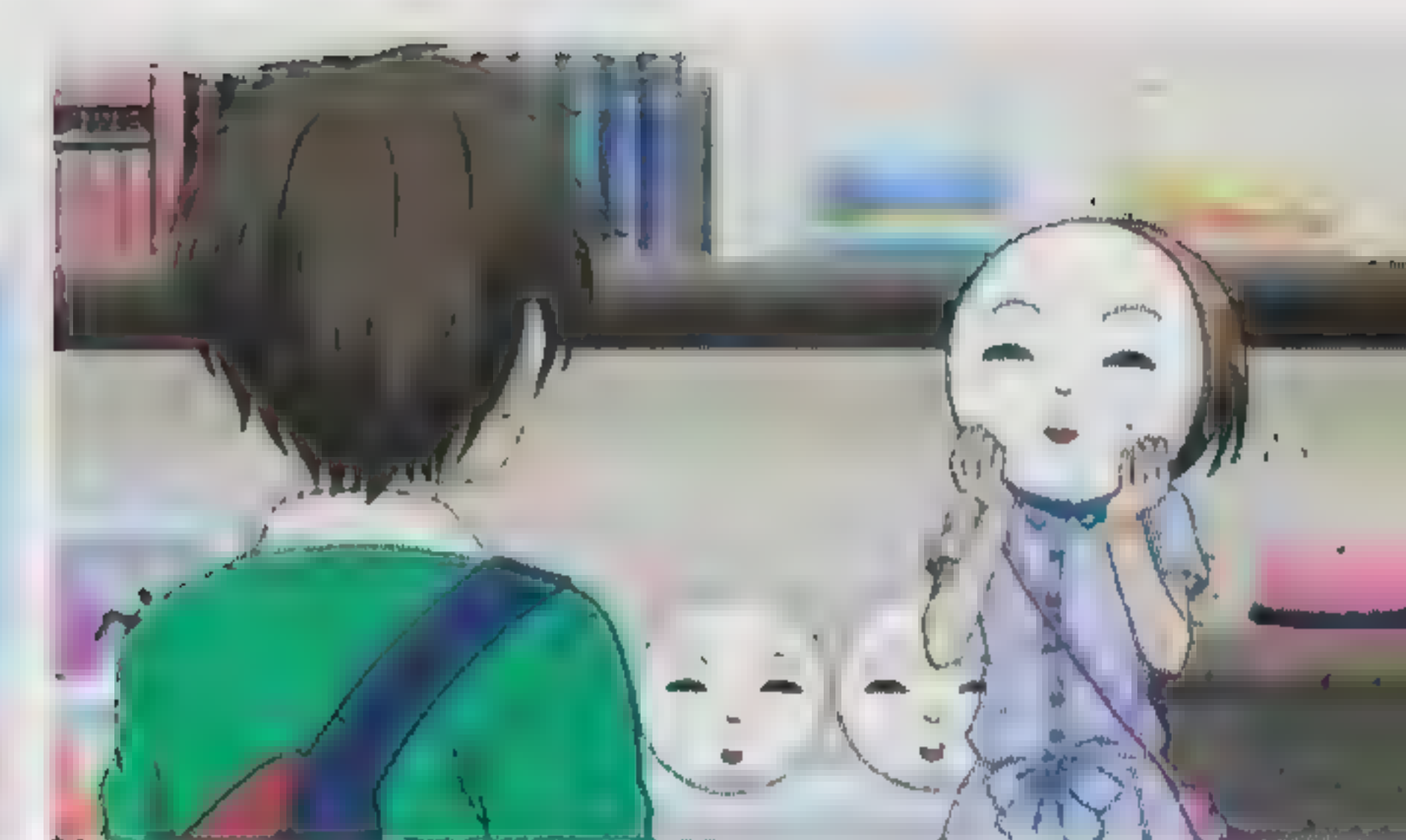


Ah, Youth

by Emily

12-sai: Chicchana Mune no Tokimeki

(Season 2)



Age 12 or 12-sai. What do you remember back then? I remember having my first crush and a couple more embarrassing stuff that all healthy children go through. In Hanabi Ayase's case, she and her bestfriend Yui Aoi are 6th graders and are experiencing their first take on puberty and love.

The anime is based on a manga serialized in Ciao by Shogakukan since 2012. The manga is still on-going while a game, an OVA and an anime has been made. Tackling the issues of young love and childhood, this might be the unconventional anime this season as well as the most brutal in truth. Most of the situations may be familiar to older audiences as they might have experienced these before in their youth. Ah youth. The grade schoolers deal with hormones, nonsensical classroom arguments and drama. They open up even the topic of menstruation! The plot is basic but the comedy will make you grin in nostalgia.

It is understood that children view the world much differently than adults. Their imaginations run wild and their emotions even so. When there are dramatic scenes in the show, be sure to be ready for some over exaggerations as the children deal with simple problems intensely.

Since the characters are mostly already chibi-size (smol children), chibification would be over the top. The animators saw this and has treated the characters well by giving them the respect they deserve visually. You would be able to tell if the scene is comedic or of serious tone or even romantic. The characters development are the most interesting part since we are taking on growth and psychology. More or less each episode tackles a topic of Hanabi Ayase's life and each could be understood individually.

The anime is made by OLM Inc. Opening theme is "Ano ne, Kimi dake ni (あのね、キミだけに)" by AOP while ending theme is "Yuuki no Tsubasa (勇気のつばさ)" by Machico.



Take an Unlikely Magical Girl Quest

by Ann

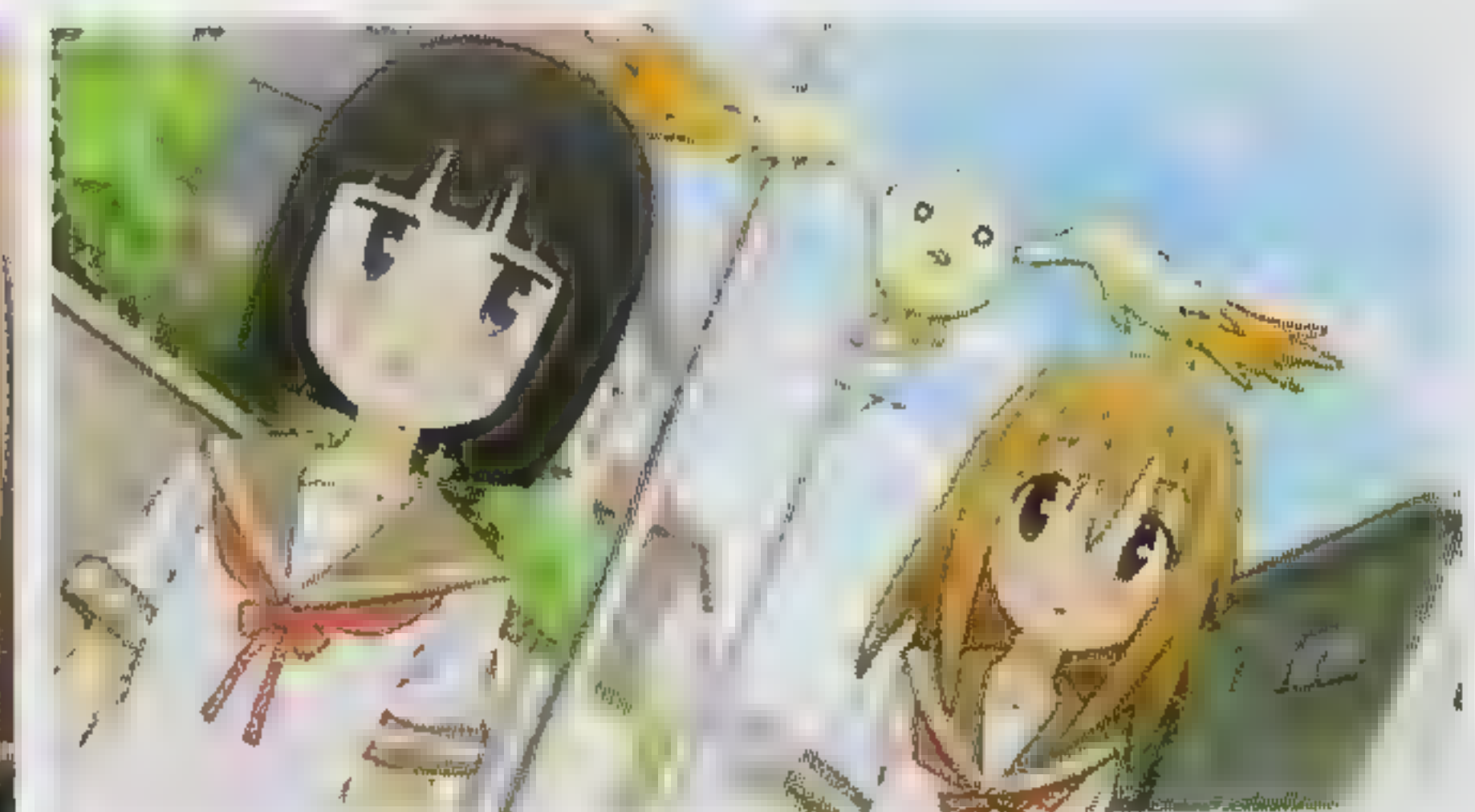
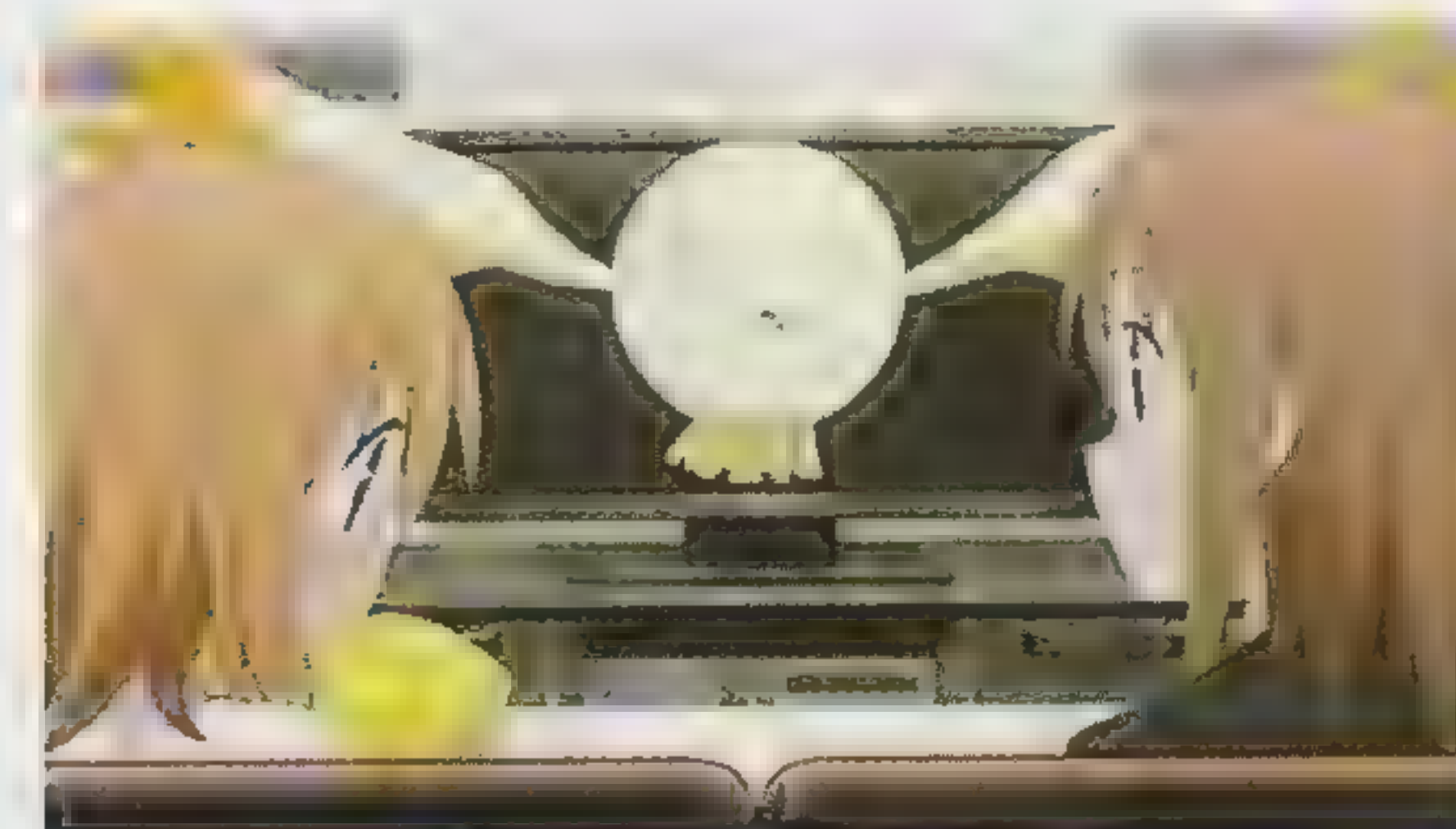
Mahou Shoujo Nante Mouiidesukara (Season 2)

Magical girls are here to save the day! Or will they? For **Yuzuka Hanami**, magical girl life hasn't been much of what she's seen in the cartoons. Following her adventures ever since **Miton** transformed her, Yuzuka is promised that battles are no longer a thing for magical girls. So, if magical girls no longer battles, what is Yuzuka supposed to do?

A second instalment is in the works for this comedy magic series and will be released this October. **Mahou Shoujo Nante Mouiidesukara** was directed by **Kazuhiro Yoneda** with **PINE JAM** as its producer and they're all back along with the main cast. It was in January that the first anime adaptation was broadcasted. The story is based on the manga of **Sui Futami** on **Earth Star Entertainment's Comic Earth Star** website.

As the title roughly translates to "I've Had Enough of Being a Magical Girl," it takes a very interesting turn from the usual magical girl themes because the first season shows that magical girls no longer have to fight. Still, Yuzuka is able to manipulate power, so what would her powers be used for then? On another note, the anime also deviates with characters beyond what magical girls usually are. A great example would be Yuzuka who is so conscious about her outfit, especially since it is a bathing suit. Moreover, she's good at cooking and studying, a great departure from the typical flaws of magical girls, at least from Miton's point of view. Although you might also want to question Miton because for someone who gives a random girl magic powers, he doesn't seem to know a lot about it. For emphasis, he doesn't have a better answer as to why he transforms Yuzuka if there are no more quests to do.

A new character will also be introduced in the second season, so watch out for the curious magical girl quest Yuzuka will be handling with her old and newfound friends!





Revisit the City of Music

by Ann

Show by Rock

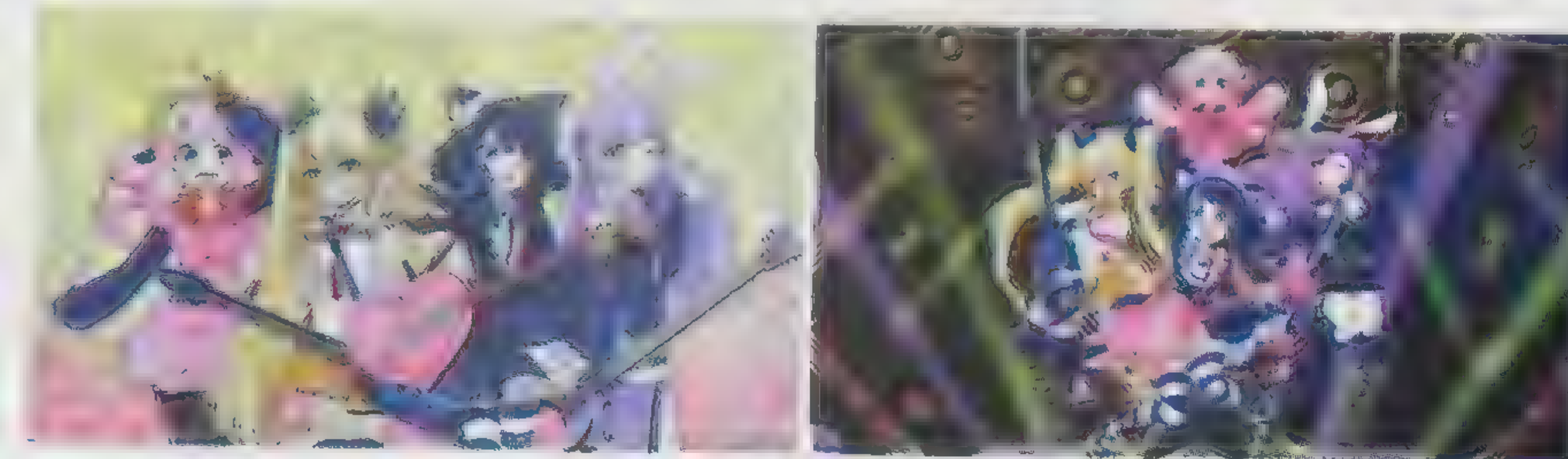
(Season 2)

If Hollywood attracts people who want to be the next best actors, MidiCity is the beehive of music icons! After venturing here, discovering her musical heart (Melodisian Stone), and meeting new friends, the first season ends with Cyan going back to the real world to join her school's music club, but in the second season, she is once again needed by MidiCity to save her bandmates from **Plasmagica** and other bands **Shingan Crimsonz**, **Tsurezure Naru Ayatsuri Mugenan**, **Trichronika**, and **Criticrista** from the threat of **Dark Monsters**. With new bands such as **BUD VIRGIN LOGIC** and **Arcareafact** joining in the mix, what new challenges will **Cyan**, **Chuchu**, **Retoree**, and **Moa** face to keep everyone's Melodisian Stones intact and pure?

Following the first anime adaptation, which was part of the **Sanrio** franchise, the second season is set to be released this October with director **Takahiro Ikezoe** and producer **BONES**, both of which were originally in the season one. As mentioned, the cast of the six bands returns along with **Mable Arisugawa** and **Angelica of BRR**. Joining them are **Eileen** (Ruriko Noguchi), **Paypain** (Aimi Tanaka), and **Handrek** (Ibuki Kido) of the new band **BUD VIRGIN LOGIC**. **Chitan** (Yūsuke Kobayashi), **Orion** (Taku Yashiro), **Seren** (Eishin Fudemura), and **Arugon** (Chiharu Sawashiro) are also making an entrance as **Arcareafact**.

While the first season had a quite slow pace in uncovering the truth behind Cyan's instant transportation to this virtual world, it did give justice to people's expectations from Sanrio when it came to the visuals. It made a lot of us become stuck into what happens next after Cyan is placed into the world of her passion, music, with changes that turned her into not only a cat but also a rock goddess. Certainly, *kawaii* redefined rock not only with the looks but also the music that was infectious. With the new characters in line for the next season, we are keeping our fingers crossed that the story becomes more solid and the characters have a greater chance to shine!

We've got the heroine in disguise in the real world back to save a city with her show-stopping music, but she'll definitely need the rest of **Plasmagica** to bring out their magic. Rock out to the intensely cute and upbeat harmony of **Show by Rock!! 2!**





Kaitou Joker 4

by Mikelle

Kaitou Joker 4 is a shounen anime by shin-Ei Animation and is the fourth season for the Kaitou Joker series which premieres on October 2016. Kaitou Joker is originally a manga series which is written and drawn by Takashi Hideyasu and is currently serialized in Corocoro Comic. Published first as a oneshot and was later turned into a long running manga series.

The story follows the adventures of Joker, the thief that can steal any valuable treasure in the world, along with his apprentice Hachi. The duo goes after one treasure after another while trying to avoid countless traps laid by police. Using miraculous tricks, Joker and Hachi always manages to avoid capture.

Kaitou Joker dons the classic phantom thief story setting where every episode features a different place, different treasure and different characters. Though cliché and repetitive, this is exactly what makes the show so fun to watch. Coupled with good gimmicks and great comic relief, Kaitou Joker is definitely one of those must watch show during a day off while relaxing on your favorite couch.

Kaito Joker is one of those anime that were common a few years back but are rare finds nowadays in the present generation. It is one of those shounen anime that instead of ending things in a brawl, the characters instead uses their brains and wits in order to reveal an unexpected conclusion. This anime is not meant just for kids, but also to those adventurous souls that used to imitate and love the existence of phantom thieves.



Joker

Joker is the infamous phantom thief known for his skill of being able to steal any treasure that caught his attention. In contrast to his perilous job, when at home; he lazes around all day playing video games and watching TV.



Spade

Spade is Joker's rival who always collects many information and thoroughly researches his target before going for the steal. He likes pulling prank but sometimes end up with a fever when he goes overboard.



Hachi

Hachi is Joker's happy-go-lucky apprentice. He came from a hidden ninja village though appears to be a clumsy one. Hachi does all the cooking and housework while Joker lazes around.



Dark Eye

Dark Eye, unknown to all, is a member of an idol group. She is also Spade's reliable assistant not only with regards to stealing, but also with household chores.



The Sound of High School

by Kimberly

Hibike Euphonium

(Volume 4)

Hibike! Euphonium: Kitauji Koukou Suisougaku-bu e Youkoso (Sound! Euphonium) is a music novel series written by Ayano Takeda and illustrated by Nikki Asada. The series began in December 2013 being published by Takarajimasha. To date a total of 4 volumes have been published. A manga adaptation of the series was launched in November last year, by Ayano Takeda and Hami that is being published in Takarajimasha's Kono Manga ga Sugoi! Web magazine. An anime adaptation of the series was produced for the Spring 2015 anime season by Kyoto Animation (Hyouka, Amagi Brilliant Park) with Tatsuya Ishihara (Clannad, Chuunibyou demo Koi ga Shitai!) directing. The anime ran for a total of 13 episodes.

We definitely don't always have it here in the Philippines, a high school orchestra. Which is just another gap in our education; however, we should not be hindered to appreciate orchestra and classical music at all. Hibike Euphonium begins when Kumiko Oumae, a girl who was in the brass band club in junior high school, visits her high school's brass band club as a first year. Kumiko's classmates Hazuki and Sapphire decide to join the club, but Kumiko sees her old classmate Reina there and hesitates. She remembers an incident she had with Reina at a brass band club contest in junior high school.

The second season is here and will feature the following characters: Tomoyo Kurosawa (Miria Akagi in The IDOLM@STER: Cinderella Girls) will voice leading character Kumiko Oumae, who plays the Euphonium, Ayaka Asai (Mio Naruse from Shinmai Maou no Testament) as Hazuki Katou, a Tuba player, Chika Anzal (Chaika Travant in Hitsugi no Chaika) is voicing Reina Kousaka, a Trumpet player, Moe Toyota (Sakura Inami in Kyoukai no Kanata) who will voice Sapphire Kawashima, who plays the Contrabass, Minako Kotobuki (Tsumugi Kotobuki in K-ON!) will voice Asuka Tanaka, who plays the Euphonium and Takahiro Sakurai (Shougo Makishima in Psycho-Pass) will voice Noboru Taki, the brass band club's advisor.





Salvation for the Demi-Humans?

by Reikisha

Ajin

(Season 2)



After successfully escaping from the police's hot pursuit in the mountains, **Kei Nagai** resolved himself to stopping **Satou** from his act of terrorism in order to return to his peaceful life. Meanwhile, Satou makes another public broadcast, announcing that he will assassinate 15 people who are involved with the conspiracy against Ajins, calling it the "Second Wave". He also boldly declared that he will take over Japan if ever there are no improvements with society's treatment towards Ajins.

What will be the outcome of the three-way hunt between the Japanese government, Nagai and Satou?

Ajin Second Season is a continuation of the **Ajin: Demi-human** TV series by **Polygon Pictures** which aired from January 16 to April 9, 2016. The second season was scheduled to air every Saturday at 2:25 JST starting from October 8, 2016. **fripSide** and **angela** will collaborate to perform the opening theme titled "Boku wa Boku de Atte".





MOVIE REEL

by Nathaniel



ONE PIECE FILM GOLD

7.28

Gran Tesoro --an independent city-state in the New World where well-known pirates, marines, and millionaires around the world gather to indulge themselves with the best entertainment the city has to offer. Within the golden walls of Gran Tesoro lives a man who can easily win over dangerous pirates, marine soldiers, and influential members of the World Government by using his vast wealth. Meanwhile, the Straw Hat pirates were invited as honorary guests due to their notoriety. During their stay, Luffy and the crew soon realized that there is more to Gran Tesoro than just an entertainment city.

After suffering defeat at the hands of the **Golden Emperor** on their first encounter, the Straw Hat Pirates learned that deception is the city's golden rule. Luckily, the crew meets a familiar face who can help them overcome their current predicament.

One Piece: Gold is the thirteenth movie based from the original manga series created by Eiichiro Oda. It was first released at the Emirates Palace Hotel in Abu Dhabi on July 15, 2016 and later premiered in Japan on July 23, 2016. In the Philippines, the Gold movie premiered exclusively at SM Cinemas across the country on August 31, 2016. The movie's ending theme is "Ikari wa Kure ya" by GLIM SPANKY.

The film is connected to the **Silver Mine Arc**, **Heart of God**, and **One Piece: Gold Episode 0**.

REVIEW

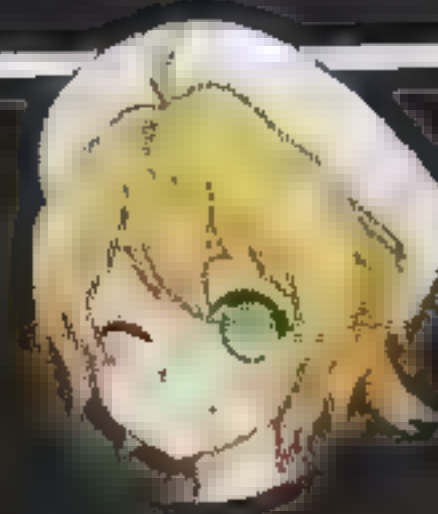
One Piece: Gold would be a very enjoyable movie to watch if it was meant to be a full-blown comedy film. The humor was indeed present, but only a few moments of the film were genuinely funny. The overall plot gets a lower score for being too linear to the point that even people who aren't fans of the series can tell what will happen next. It's even worse that Tesoro, the main villain of the film, failed to deliver the hype he's been giving to the audience since his introduction.

The art and animation is much more appealing compared to the usual quality Toei does for the anime TV series. It also showed one of the best fight scenes that can be seen in an animated film in recent history. The upbeat soundtrack also

played a huge part in the movie as it was able to energize the audience as they watch the film until the very end.

Despite the lack of plot twists and character development, **One Piece: Gold** is still a very entertaining movie to watch. Tesoro may turn out to be a lackluster villain in the end, but at least the audience gets to discover more about Nami's past—which is weird since the film is supposed to be centered around the main villain.

At best, the film deserves a score of 7/10. We look forward to more Japanese animated movies in our cinemas as we support and watch the ones that they are bringing in now. To the future!



GAMER'S ARENA

DANCE UNDER THE BULLETSTORM

by Reikisha

TOUHOUGENSO RONDO BULLET BALLET

The Touhou series originally started as a doujin game featuring an every growing cast of female characters inhabiting the world of Gensokyo since 1996. Because of its widespread popularity, Touhou became more than just a doujin game about dodging bullets in a top-down view. Throughout the years, it evolved into a genre that not only features the games, but also doujin albums, animated episodes, and fanarts.

For this article, we'll be talking about the very first Touhou game that was ported as a PlayStation 4 game.

Yes, you read that right. First Touhou game on a PlayStation 4!

Touhou: Genso Rondo is a 3D fighting game developed and published by **CUBETYPE**. The original PC version was released on August 2012 at Comiket 82 while the updated PS4 version was first released on May 11 in Japan. NIS America released the game in North America and Europe on September 2016. Genso Rondo is the first Touhou doujin game that was ported on a mainstream platform and officially released in the West.

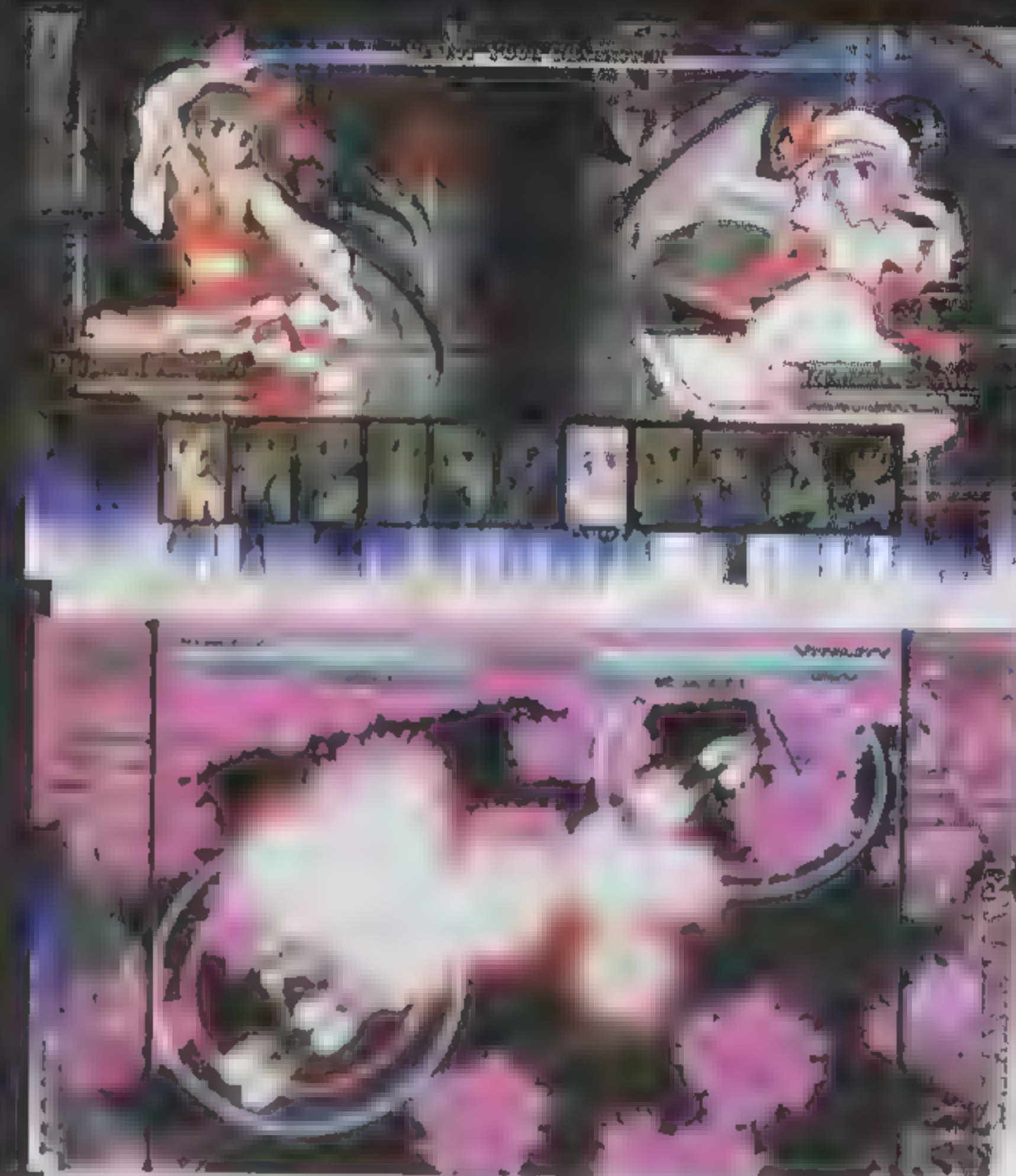
GAMEPLAY

Touhou: Genso Rondo's gameplay is a mix of both fighting and shoot-em-up genre in which the player is pitted against an opponent in a 1v1 arena but with bullets as attacks instead. The goal is to simply defeat the opponent using a various combination of attacks.



The player can use attack, dash and focus during battle, just like in the main Touhou games. Each attack varies from each character. Dashing allows the player to perform evasive maneuvers, but they are still vulnerable to enemy attacks. Focus slows down the player in-exchange for accurate attacks with a higher chance of hitting the opponent. Bullet patterns change whenever the player is on focus or dashing.

P and C blocks stand for Power and Charge respectively. P blocks strengthens the player character's bullets, giving them an easier way to beat their opponent while the C blocks raises the player's charge meter for both charge attacks and spell cards. A charge attack will clear and convert all surrounding bullets into P



Players can perform a special melee attack whenever they enter the opponent's circle, which pushes the opponent away.

Lastly, the player can survive a losing battle by entering **EXTEND** mode, which allows the player to attack or use a spell card as a last resort. However, the player will be defeated after taking one hit while in this mode. Using a spell card while in **EXTEND** mode allows the player to last longer in battle, but will be defeated once the lifefbar from the spell card reaches zero.



REVIEW

A fighting game with shoot-em-up mechanics is like a brand new territory for gamers waiting to be explored. In this game, you get to play as one of the eight iconic Touhou characters plus four additional characters if you're playing the PS4 version.

Considering that this was originally a doujin game developed for the PC with lower spec requirements, the PS4 version was like a PS2 game when played on the big screen at 1080p resolution, so it's expected that it will get negative reviews when it comes to graphics. The gameplay can be either good or bad depending on how you see it. It's good that Genso Rondo is all about fast-paced battle, but at the same time, it gets bland overtime as you only shoot your opponent at a safe distance while dashing around the screen. And unlike the Touhou fighting games, there's no way for anyone to play versus mode locally, so the only option is to search for opponents online. Bad news though, the online community for Genso Rondo is technically dead.

Veteran Touhou fans will definitely get the PS4 version since they probably played the original version a few years ago. But if you're new to Touhou, it's recommended to give the PC version a try first before deciding to get Genso Rondo for your PS4. Might as well try out the spin-off games while you're at it.

DEMON GAZE

by Mikelle デモンゲイズ2

Release date: October 2016
Developer: Kadokawa Games, Experience Inc.
Publisher: Kadokawa Games, NIS America
Platform: Playstation Vita
Genre: Dungeon Crawler, RPG

Demon Gaze 2 is a role playing, dungeon crawler game by Experience Inc. and Kadokawa Games for the Playstation Vita, which is scheduled to release this Fall 2016 season. As per the title, it is the second installment for the Demon Gaze game which was first released back in 2013 and is the predecessor for the Students of the Round game from the same developers.

Set in the world of **Mythrid**, within the city-state of **Asteria**. A few years following the events of Demon Gaze, a new generation of demons who bears the names of constellations has come forth into the world of Mythrid. **Signa**, the new protagonist who grew up in an orphanage must now form a party in order to find the mother that raised them who went missing. Along with his childhood friend and equip with the "evil eye", Signa's grand story now unfolds.

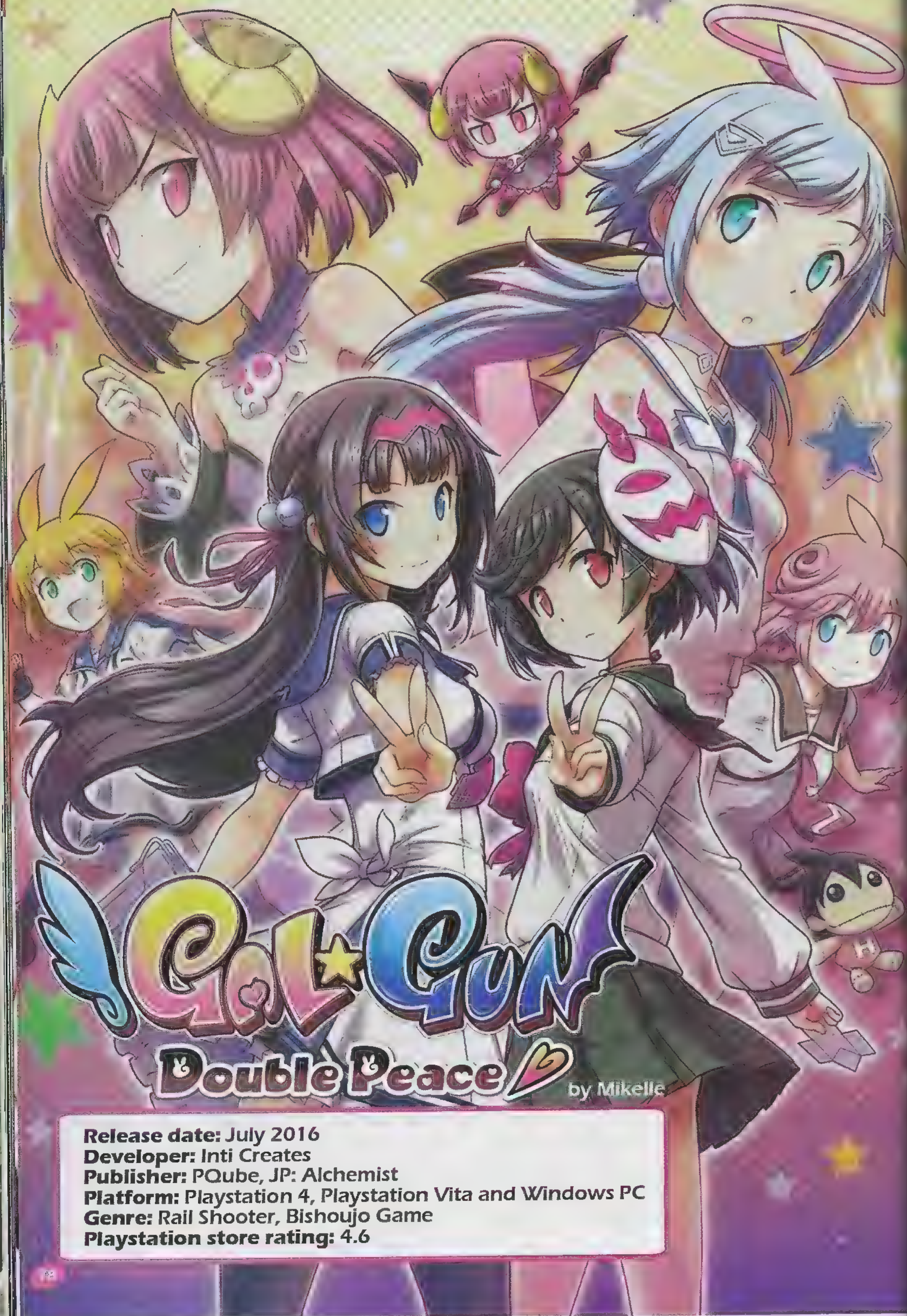
Demon Gaze 2's core gameplay is the same as the first installment, the classic retro dungeon crawler that most gamers grew up playing though with some cool add-ons and tweaks. New characters will be featured along with some returning ones.

The game's demon does not work as just summons like with other classic RPGs. In here there are also considered as party member that players also needs to control. The game will provide a maintenance room to where players will be able strengthen and boost their favorability with demons.



A dating system will also be implemented that let players further advance their relationships with the demons in order to increase their abilities and stats. Just a heads up, these demons takes on human forms and most are female so they are definitely not like conventional scary looking demons.

Latest news revealed an additional content within Demon Gaze 2 which could be accessed after the main story has been cleared. The extra content is called Yagyuu Demon Slaying Chronicle: Call of the Grimodar that features the event surrounding two new characters: Piene and the Swordsman of Yagyuu.



Release date: July 2016
Developer: Inti Creates
Publisher: PQube, JP: Alchemist
Platform: Playstation 4, Playstation Vita and Windows PC
Genre: Rail Shooter, Bishoujo Game
Playstation store rating: 4.6

Kudoki Houdai is an unpopular student who suddenly became the center of attention due to a cruel twist of fate. He became the target of **Ekorō** the cupid angel and **Kurona** the demon angel for their practical exam on earth. Both angels must help, more like forcefully make, Kudoki realize his love partner. Due to the two angel's extreme ways, almost all the females in the academy turns their eyes towards Kudoki and he must now find a solution to stop the affection hungry females before things get more out of hand.

Gal*Gun: Double Peace is a single player bishoujo, rail shooter game by **Inti Creates** for the Playstation 4 & Playstation Vita, and was also recently released on Steam for the Windows port. It is the second installment of the game Gal*Gun back in 2011. Originally developed for the Xbox 360 but was later ported also for the Playstation 3. Ironically, no Xbox 360 port has been released as of yet. The game runs using Unreal Engine 3 and features a unique gameplay not commonly found in the market.



The game's aim is for Kudoki Houdai to fend off waves of female students that chases after him with the use of the pheromone shot, which was granted to him by Ekorō. The pheromone shot has the power to subdue the incoming girls and prevent them from confessing. If however a girl was able to confess to the player, their HP will be damaged. By completing levels and completing different requests from other students, players can attain some cash rewards which may be spent at the shop in order to increase their stats.

Those who've bought the game for the Playstation consoles had to option of buying the launch edition or the limited edition copy of the game which contains additional goodies such as an official artbook.

As a bishoujo game, Gal*Gun of course features branching routes and dialogue choices which would affect the flow of the story. Not to mention that there are over seventy girls within the game; each one having their own ending. More than 70 girls to choose from! What more could you ask for?

MYSTIC MESSENGER

☆ ☆ ☆ 상 ☆ 한 ☆ 메 ☆ 신 ☆ 저 ☆



A LIFE CHANGING MESSENGER

Mystic Messenger... seems to be an interesting app. so you've decided to download it. This is where your life will change. Upon opening the application, a username "unknown" chatted with you and asked you to help him/her with finding the owner of the mobile phone he founded. Being good in nature and the unknown guy's persuasion you decided to help the man but as you entered the apartment, your phone was suddenly connected to a chat room full of cute guys!

You found out that this messenger app is not just an ordinary chat room after a long talk with the members. It's an app used by the RFA members who holds party for a cause which is to help other people. Since you're stuck in a situation that you have to join them due to the fact that no outsider must know about this app. Will you be able to held their next party successful just like the previous years?

RFA which stands for Rika's Fundraising Association is founded by Rika and his lover V however Rika died one and a half year ago due to suicide. The remaining members tried to still held parties after Rika's death but they weren't successful unlike with Rika managing it. With you as the new member of RFA, will you be able to do it just like Rika? and who among the members route will you take? Who among them made your heart jump?

Mystic Messenger is a female oriented otome game created by Cheritz. The game is both available for Android and Apple users for free. The game requires internet connection when playing.

There will be story types: the Casual Story (Yoosung, Zen, Jaehee) and the Deep Story (Jumin/707). You can play the Casual story for free however the Deep story requires 70 HG. HG will be obtained while playing the game so you'll be needing to play the Casual story first before the Deep story. As you play along, dark secrets will be revealed concerning RFA and its members so be sure to play all the routes of the members.

If you missed a chat box, you will be needing to pay 5 HG in order to play it. You can also decide not to play it but you'll lose the chance of getting hearts and HG. Hearts can be converted into HG: 100 hearts = 1 HG. Another task in this game is for you to successfully invite many guests to the party; if you answered all of their questions, it will be guaranteed that they will come. This contributes also if you'll have a good ending or normal ending. There will be also 3 bad endings per RFA member so be careful~

Another unique and cool feature of this game is that feature where the members will call you from time to time (you can hear their voices!) plus they'll text you also aside from the conversations at the chat box. You can also call them with the price of 5 HG. I can say that these features will make you more engaged and thrilled to the game and it made an otome game to the next level.

MEET THE RFA MEMBERS~

Yoosung Kim

- He is an ordinary college student who studies at Sky University. He loves playing the game LOLOL which made him not spending much time in studying.

707/Luciel

- He is a hacker who can find information on something he wants. He also loves pranking Yoosung and making fun of other members; as well himself.

Zen

- He is an actor, dancer and singer. He is a narcissist, but beyond that, he really wants people to recognize his skills and talents rather than his looks.

Jumin Han

- He is the heir to C&R International company. He has cat named Elizabeth 3rd whom he loves to talk about. He doesn't know any slang languages and commoner food.

Jaehee Kang

- She is the chief secretary and the assistant of Jumin at the C&R International Company. She works until late in the night due to Jumin's demands.

MC

- You will be playing as MC. You can name her however you want plus you can change your profile aside from the given avatars.



Golden Happy Days

By FRODO BAGGINS

Kin-iro Mosaic



Shinobu Omiya awakened her deep fascination towards anything related to foreign countries after her homestay experience in England 5 years ago. During her homestay, she became friends with a girl named **Alice Cartelet**. One fateful day, Shinobu received a letter from Alice, but it was written in English so Shinobu was really surprised to see her in school as a transfer student.

The arrival of not one, but two blonde cuties in Japan added more color to Shinobu, Aya and Yoko's high school life.

Kin-iro Mosaic (Kinmoza) is an on-going Japanese 4-panel manga series written and illustrated by **Yui Hara**. The series was serialized in **Houbunsha's Manga Time Kirara Max** in June 2010 and is currently licensed in English by **Yen Press**. A two-season anime adaptation by **Studio Gokumi** aired in Japan from July to September 2013 and April to June 2015 respectively. Both opening and ending themes of the anime version are performed by **Asuka Nishi**, **Minami Tanaka**, **Risa Taneda**, **Yumi Uchiyama**, and **Nao Touyama** under the group name **Rhodanthe***

As of June 2015, **Kin-iro Mosaic** now has a total of six tankoubon volumes and an anthology comic.

The original manga is exactly the same as what we've seen in the anime series except that it feels a bit short since everything is portrayed in four to eight panels per page. It might be weird for someone to start reading the 4-koma manga version after going through two seasons of the anime, but it's still a good read if you can't get enough of Shinobu and her merry friends. The fluffy atmosphere of the manga with a pinch of yuri will soothe the readers' heart and mind.

If you're familiar with **Yui Hara**, you might also want to take a look at her other 4-koma series titled **Wakaba Girl!**

Resident Lovely Monsters
by Iizac 3.0Monster Musume
no Iru Nichijou

Monsters are real, only in the form of sexy and irresistible ladies. The Japanese government hid the truth behind the existence of these creatures for many years. But now the truth is out. There are monsters or liminals as what they are called technically, sent to Japan for meaningful cultural exchange. The bill Interspecies Cultural Exchange Act has been passed to encourage healthy interaction between people and the humanoids. These liminals look like humans but have the body of centaurs, lamias, and harpies. They need to have a host family willing to take them in and teach them the ways of humans. However, they have to follow the most basic rule in this bill, which is to not hurt humans. Accordingly, humans should not hurt these creatures as well.

Kimihito suddenly has his hands full when **Miia**, a lamia, was sent to his house by the program coordinator. Miia calls Kimihito darling and always suggests doing lewd things with him, albeit at a very innocent way. It is almost endearing, but a physical relationship between liminals and humans is strictly prohibited. Kimihito manages to take care of more liminals than he could. And at the same time, his luck runs out. The liminals become more aggressive toward him and against each other because of jealousy. How will he handle his one mess of a household? Will he be able to control his sexual urges as the beautiful liminals make their advances on him?

Monster Musume is a seinen manga written and illustrated by **Okayado** and published by **Tokuma Shoten** in the magazine **Monthly Comic Ryuu**. The manga already has one million copies sold by September 2014 alone. It is also included in **New York Times Manga Best Sellers List**.

The harem element is present in this manga, and the way the girls fight over Kimihito is hilarious. Nudity is prevalent in every chapter that it's almost borderline hentai, but since being forward is a trait shared by most of the liminals, going naked even in public is not an issue. The character design is very detailed especially the bodies of the liminals. Their upper bodies are that of humans, but the lower half of their bodies is based on mythical creatures. The mangaka did an amazing job to accurately draw details on the scales and centaur bodies.

Monster Musume has indeed some bountiful, lusty content. But it is a funny manga that would appeal to the hearts of many because of the self-sacrificing protagonist and charming liminals.



Saekano: How to Raise a Boring Girlfriend

by Mikelle

Saenai Heroine Sodatekata



A galge or bishoujo game is a type of video game where player interacts with the heroines of the story. These games usually employ branching routes which could lead the player towards a specific ending depending on your actions or dialogue choices. The main goal of the game is to advance your relationship with any of the heroines and acquire their respective ending. If you think that's tough or troublesome, what about those people who strive to develop these ground breaking games.

Meet **Tomoya Aki**, a hard core otaku who drowns himself in his obsessions. A breathtaking encounter suddenly inspired him into creating a game of his own. However he himself admits that he isn't good enough to make that dream come true. This is where the girls come in. Tomoya recruits the famous **Eri Spencer Sawamura**; his childhood friend and successful doujin artist as the game illustrator, the legendary light novel author **Kasumigaoka Utaha** as the script writer, and his docile classmate **Katou Megumi** as the model for his main heroine. With this the stage is set and the cast is complete, or is it?

Saenai Heroine Sodatekata or **Saekano** is a shounen romance manga drawn by **Takeshi Moriki**. Currently at its third volume and is serialized in **Fujimi Shobo's Monthly Dragon Age** since 2013. There are also two manga spin-offs of **Saekano** which was also serialized, the first was **Saekano: Egoistic-Lily** that focuses on Eri's side of the story, while the second is **Saekano: Koisuru Metronome** that features Utaha as the main heroine. **Egoistic-Lily** happens to be Eri's doujin circle name and **Koisuru Metronome** is the title of Utaha's top selling light novel.

The manga is originally adapted from a light novel series by **Fumiaki Maruto** and illustrated by **Kurehito Misaki** which currently has a total of 10 volumes and a short story compilation. An anime adaptation by A-1 pictures also aired last year with a second season is planned to premiere in April 2017.

Happy end, dead end, true end or even harem end; there's so much ending to choose from. But the greatest dilemma is choosing which heroine to conquer since there are usually a handful of girls to choose from. How about you? Which type of heroine will you choose?



Udon no Kuni no Kiniro Kemari

by Mikelle

There are things and secrets in this world that cannot be explained by simple reasoning. Though once you've passed that barrier and has accepted the bold truth that you were presented with; the best course of action to take is to adapt and avoid being in denial. Much like what happened with hero of this story.

The protagonist, **Tawara Souta**, is a web designer from Tokyo who to visit his family's udon place in Kanagawa Prefecture. Upon arriving at his hometown, he encounters an odd boy who carries a surprising secret. He immediately decided to stay in his hometown and quit his job after learning about **Poko**, the mysterious boy's secret. Together their story unfolds as their daily lives are filled with hearth warming fun and adventures.

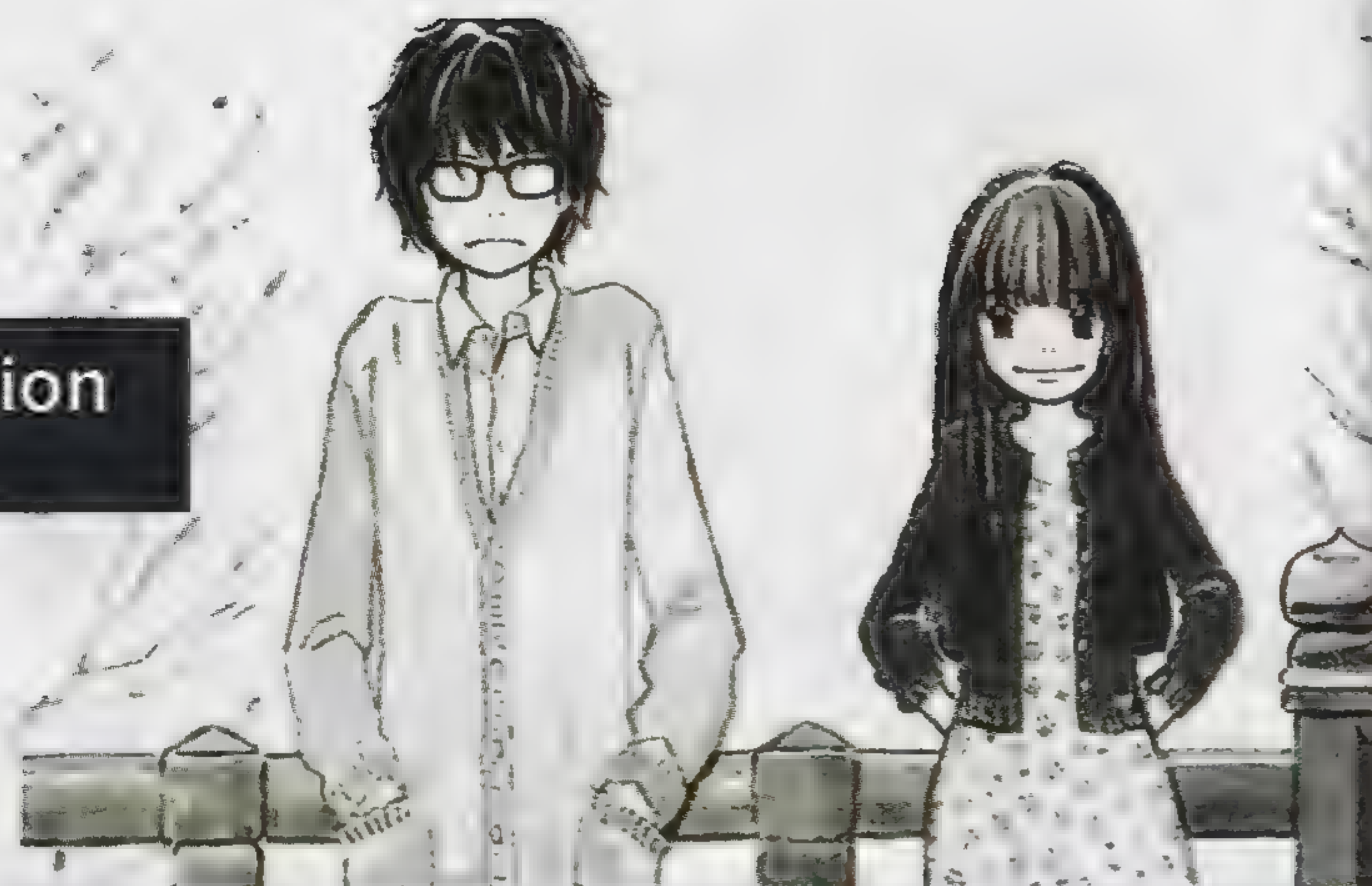
Udon no Kuni no Kiniro Kemari is a fantasy slice of life manga series writtend and drawn by **Nodoka Shinomaru**. The series is serialized in **Monthly Comic @ Bunch** since 2012 and has collected twelve volumes. Not to mention that an anime adaptation is already on its way.

Udon no Kuni no Kiniro Kemari brings forth a warm and light hearted feel that lets readers relaxed and healed. With an anime adaptation scheduled to premiere this October 2016, why not try picking up this series and experience the feels first hand.



Sangatsu no Lion

by Mikelle



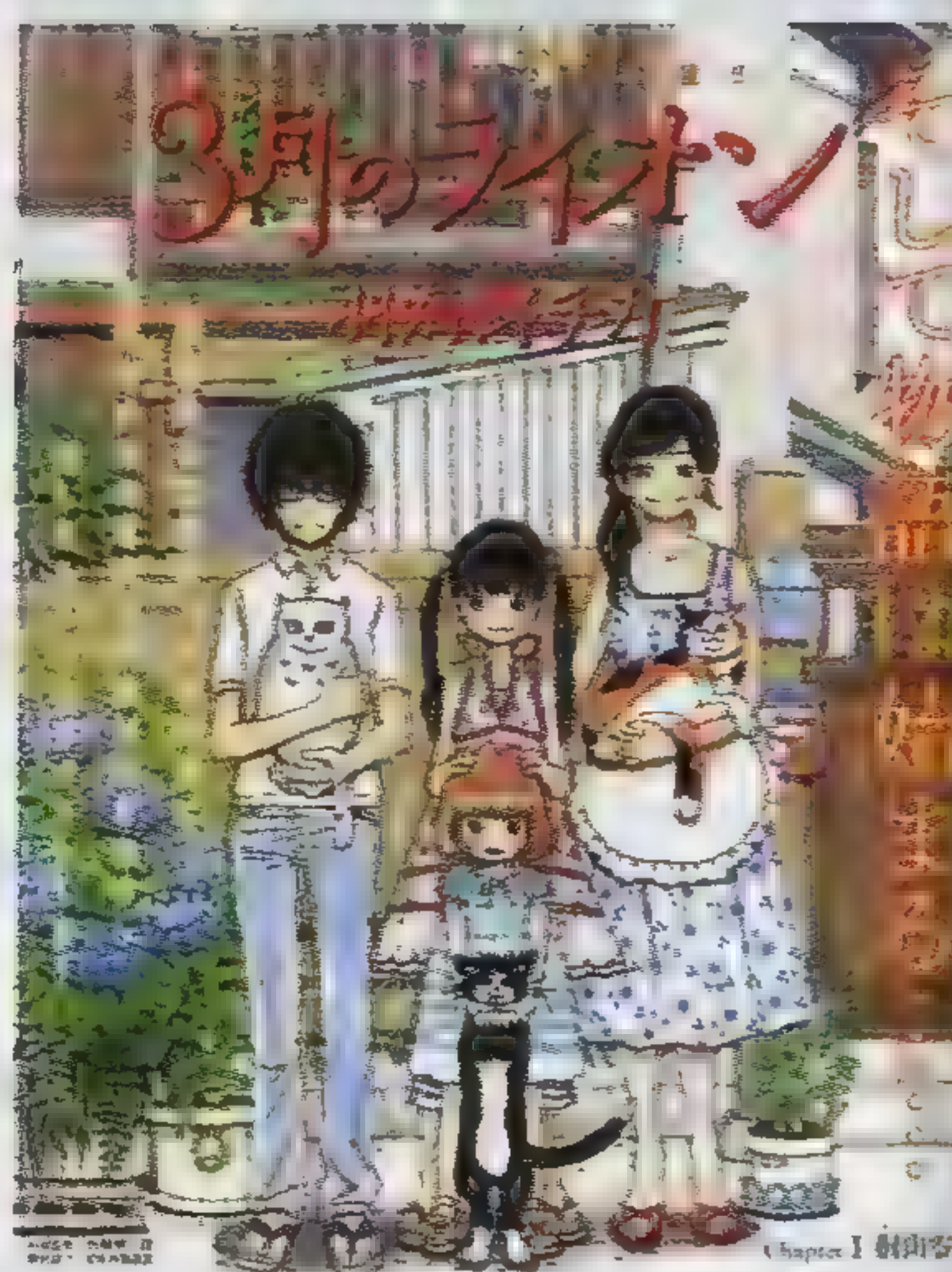
A home can be described as somewhat similar to a kotatsu; it covers us with warmth and protects us from the cold. Though very warm and convenient, it can transform people into lethargic individuals making it hard to leave that man made sanctuary. Since we all know that once we left that comfortable and warm place, all that waits is the coldness of the outside world.

The story revolves around **Rei Kiriyama**, a 17-year old professional shogi player who lives alone in an apartment due to being orphaned at a very young age. His father's rival adopted Rei and trained him in the arts of shogi. Familial problems ensue within his foster family which resolves him into moving out and living alone while living off his earnings as a pro player. A certain twist of fate led him to encounter the three **Kawamoto** sisters: **Akari**, **Hinata** and **Momo**, who much like him does not have parents to depend on. Despite their circumstances, the Kawamoto sisters give their utmost best to live a modest yet fulfilling life and without much reservations; they stretched out their arms to welcome Rei into their warm home.

3-gatsu no Lion, subtitled as **March Comes in Like a Lion**, is an award winning, ongoing slice of life manga series by **Chica Umino**, the author that brought us **Honey and Clover**. Currently on its eleventh volume and is being serialized in **Young Animal** magazine since 2007.

At first glance most readers would think that the story is all about the complicated world of shogi, which is partly correct since many jargons and complicated shogi scenes are featured. Nevertheless **3-gatsu no Lion**'s main theme would be about family and home. The series hits hard especially for those who can relate to the character's circumstances. For those who rode **Honey and Clover**'s roller coaster ride, be prepared as **3-gatsu no Lion** won't fail to amuse you.

A 22-episode anime adaptation by studio **Shaft** is scheduled to premiere on Oct 2016 as part of the Fall Season lineup with **Bump of Chicken** performing both the opening and ending theme. A live action film adaptation has also been slated for release.



GK
CONTEST 2016
Champions are Born

E2046

Figure



Serafin Germany

Robot



蔚蓝 China



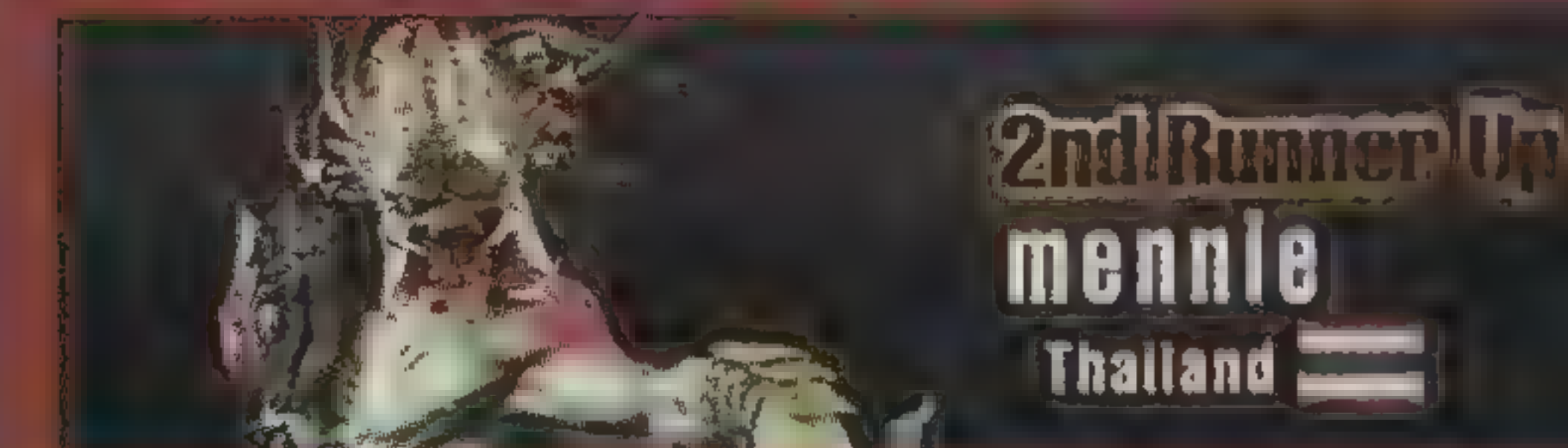
1st Runner Up
tomcat
Germany



1st Runner Up
tomcat
Germany



2nd Runner Up
dianahase
Germany

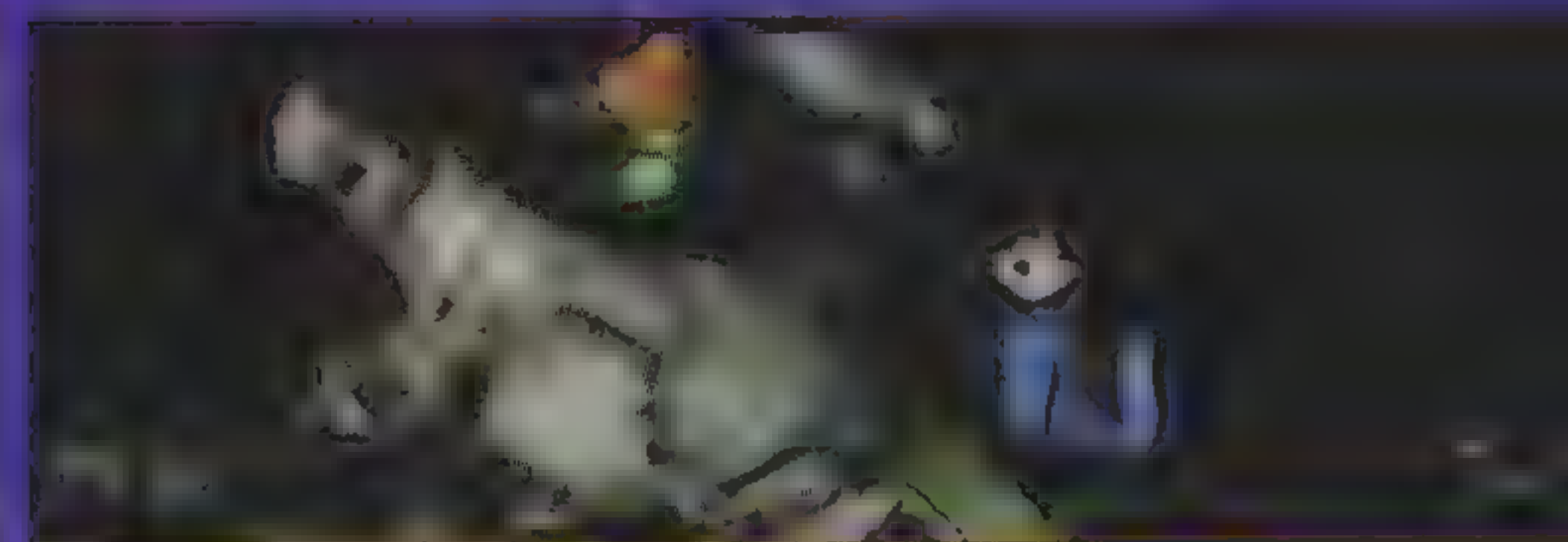


2nd Runner Up
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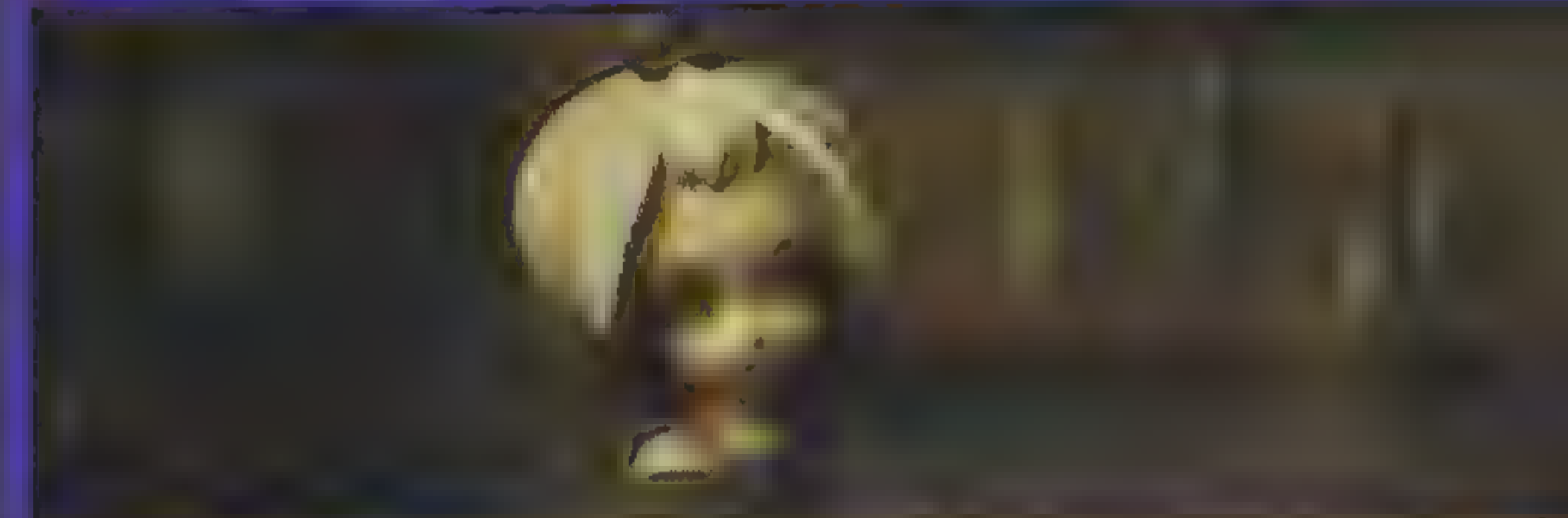
Diorama



ireakstyle Russian Federation



1st Runner Up salva Spain



2nd Runner Up Ksana Russian Federation



REQUESTS



Youkai, the supernatural monsters and demon in Japanese folklore, was supposed to be just a myth, but then there are people who proves that they really exist.

Ririchiyo Shirakiin is a daughter from the rich and powerful clan of Shirakiin. Due to being part of this influential family, she was brought up being protected by his family, to the point that she became an independent girl that she hates. Ririchiyo, therefore, decided to move out from her house and change everything. Just that she has one problematic vice that she could not get rid off – her incredibly sharp tongue.

by Elaine

Ririchiyo is the type to make extremely bad remarks to other people, and then regrets it afterwards. She just can't easily remove that side of hers no matter how bad she wanted to. With her desire to start anew, Ririchiyo moved to a highly secluded apartment complex, Maison de Ayakashi, where later on she discovers to be a home of half-human half-youkai people just like her. There she met a group of weird and bizarre individuals, including Soushi Miketsukami.

In Maison de Ayakashi, there is a unique system called SS or Secret Service which allows each tenant to have someone to accompany and serve them in every way possible. Soushi is the one assigned to Ririchiyo, but his weird behavior lets her see him something similar as a loyal dog. No matter what foul

妖狐×僕SS INU X BOKU SS

comments she say, Soushi just couldn't be affected and stays so affectionate towards Ririchiyo.

Presented by David Production, Inu x Boku SS (Dog x Me SS) is a 12-episode anime series and aired from January to March 2012. It was licensed by Sentai Filmworks for North America and MVM Films for United Kingdom. This anime is based on same-titled manga written and illustrated by Cocoa Fujiwara.

Will Ririchiyo achieve what she wanted with her SS Soushi? Or will she discover something else that makes her heart flutter?



by Elaine

How screwed are you.. if one day you wake up to find yourself in an unfamiliar land, with unknown people, remembering only your name, and holding only to your blurry memories? All of a sudden, a group of people woke up in the darkness without remembering how and when they came into. In search of answers, they tried to find a way to get out of the darkness until they saw a strange location they knew nothing of. It was Grimgar, and they were trapped in that world acquiring jobs and skills in order to survive.

Haruhiro the thief forms a group with five other people Manato, Yume, Shihoru, Mogzo and Ranta. Together they fight goblins to become stronger while finding the very reason they were there. They seem to be trapped inside a game, and they are characters who needs to level up and find their way through the game.

灰と幻想の グリムガル

GRIMGAR OF ASH & FANTASY

However, there one thing is different: if they die, it's permanent. No respawn, no revive. If they die, everything will simply be over.

Hai to Gensou no Grimgar (Grimgar of Fantasy and Ash) is an anime based on a light novel written by Ao Juumonji and illustrated by Eiri Shirai. It was aired for 12 episodes by TOHO Animation and A-1 Pictures from January to March 2016.

Join Haruhiro's team in discovering the real nature of the mysterious world of Grimgar!

**BITZ**

Untold Pet Stories

by Yani

Have you ever wondered what does your pet do whenever you're not home? Don't they get bored while waiting for you? Do they go into adventure that we haven't heard of?

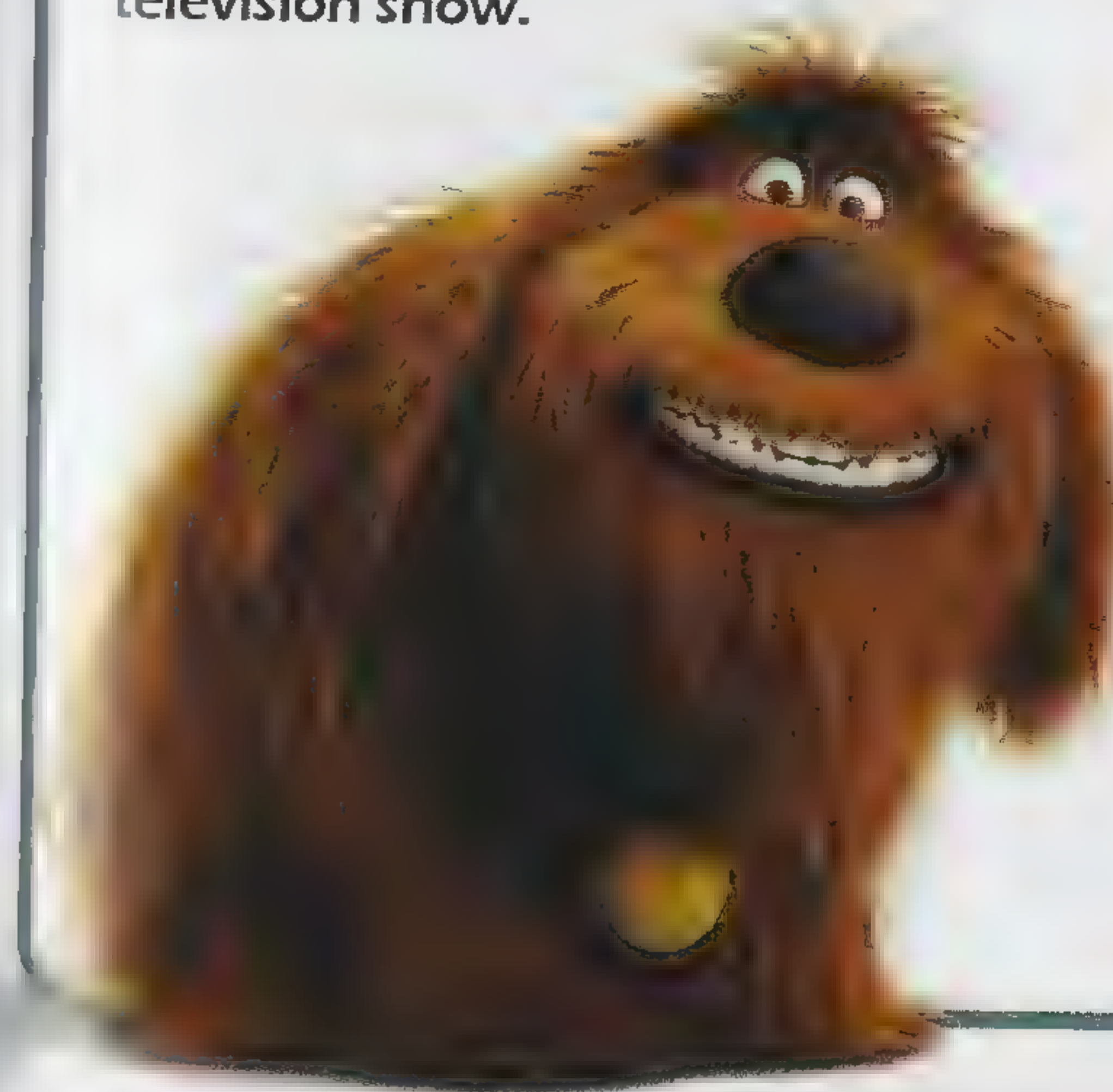
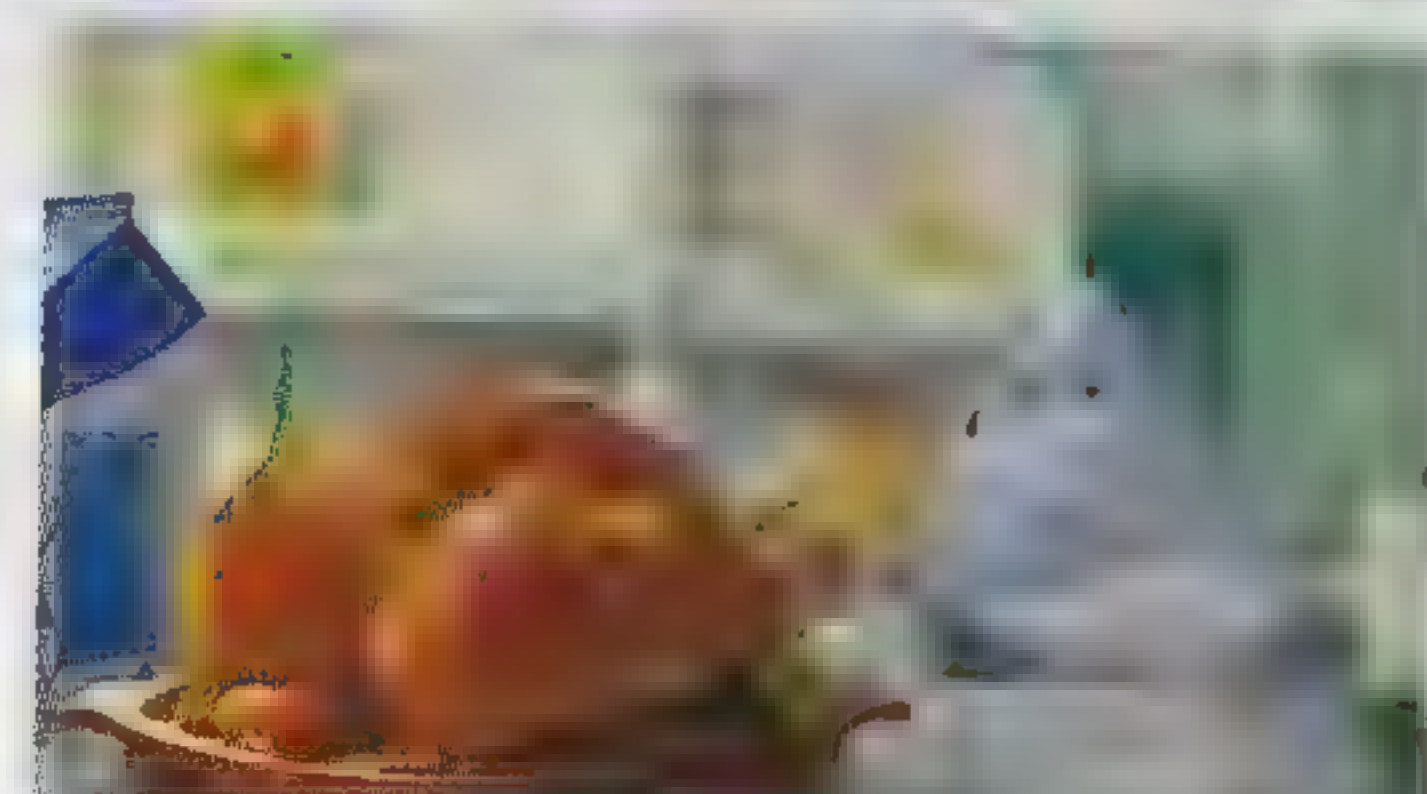
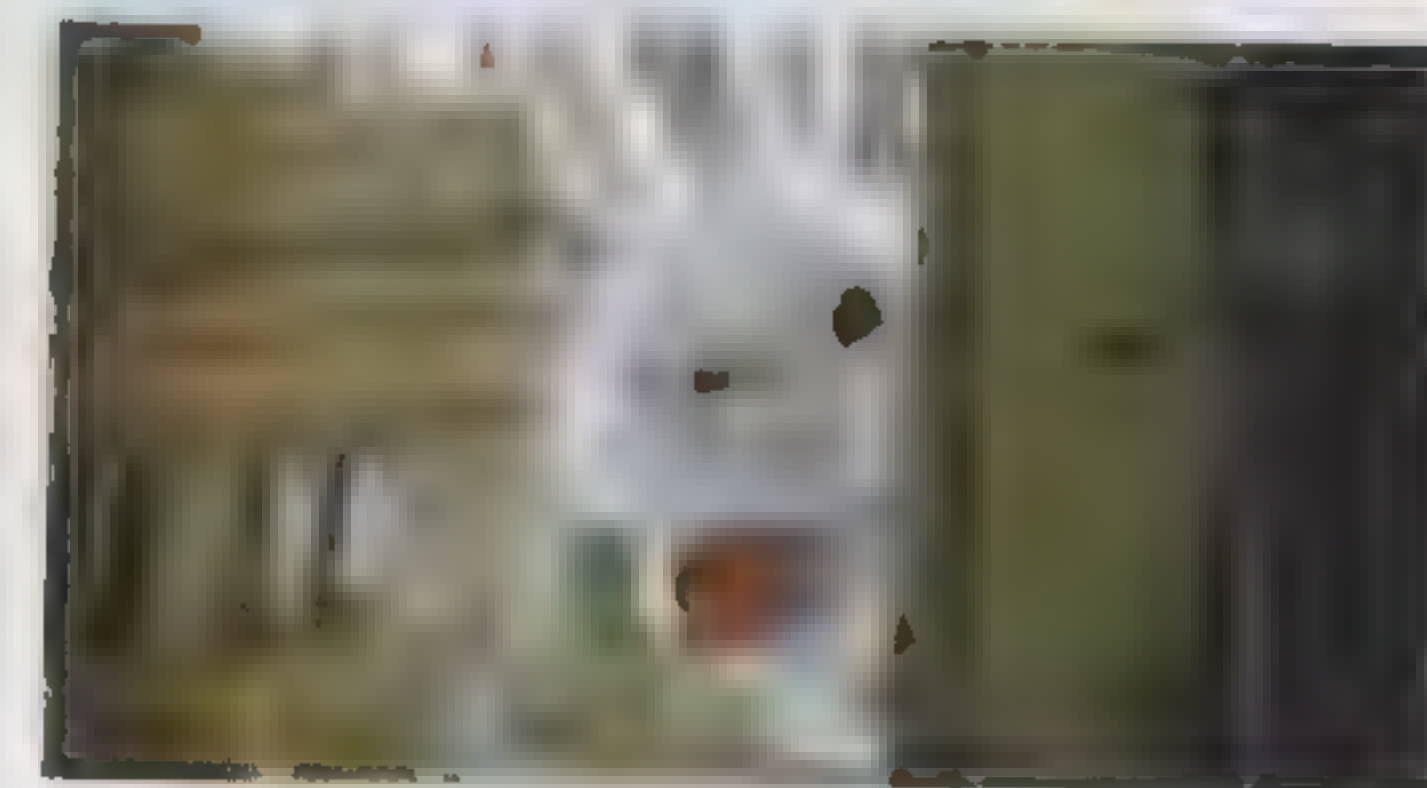
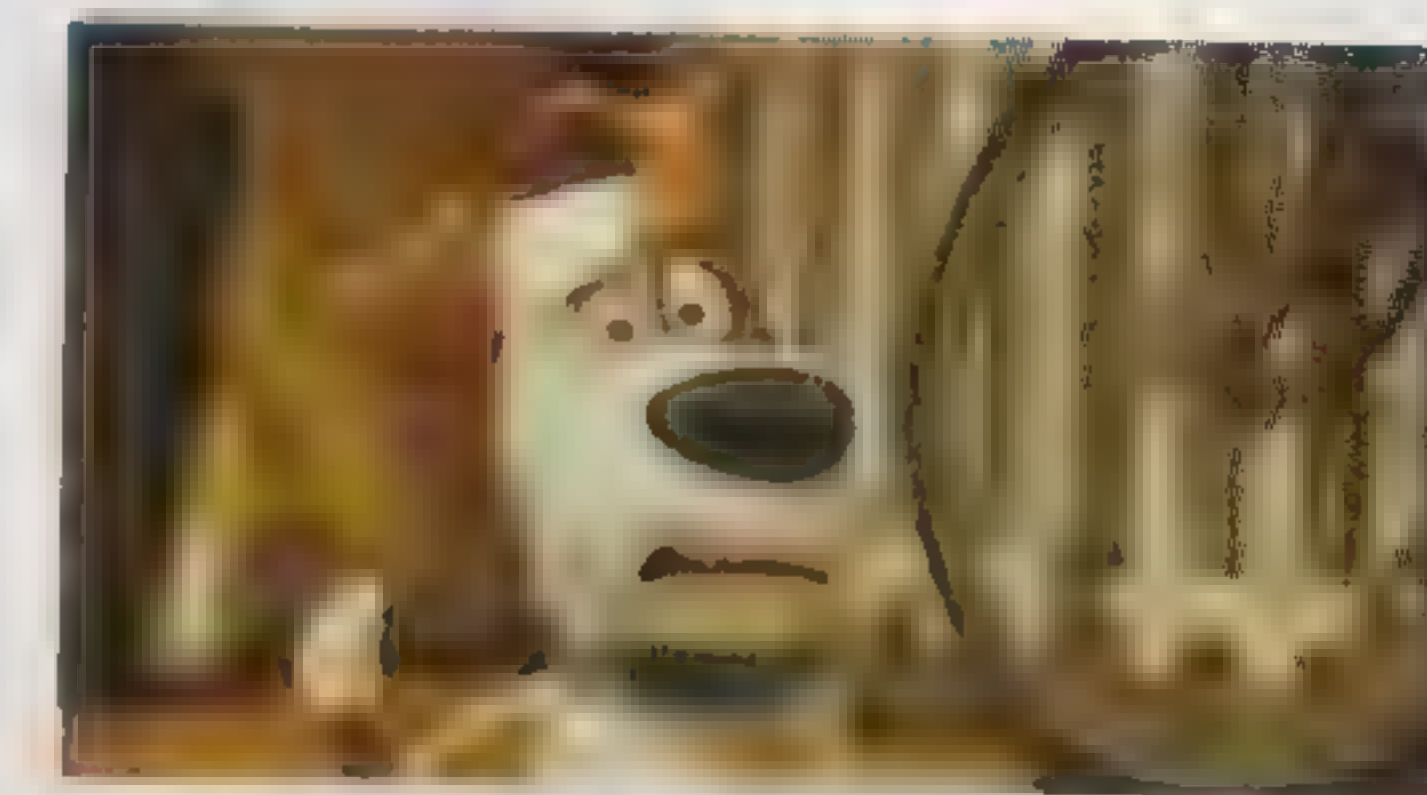


Max is an orphan Jack Russell Terrier dog who was found by his owner Katie when he was still a pup. The two were inseparable; only when Katie is leaving for work. Max always wonders where does she go during the day. While he waits for his owner, he plays with his fellow pets within the building: Chloe the tabby cat, Mel the pug, Buddy the dachshund and Sweetpea the budgerigar.

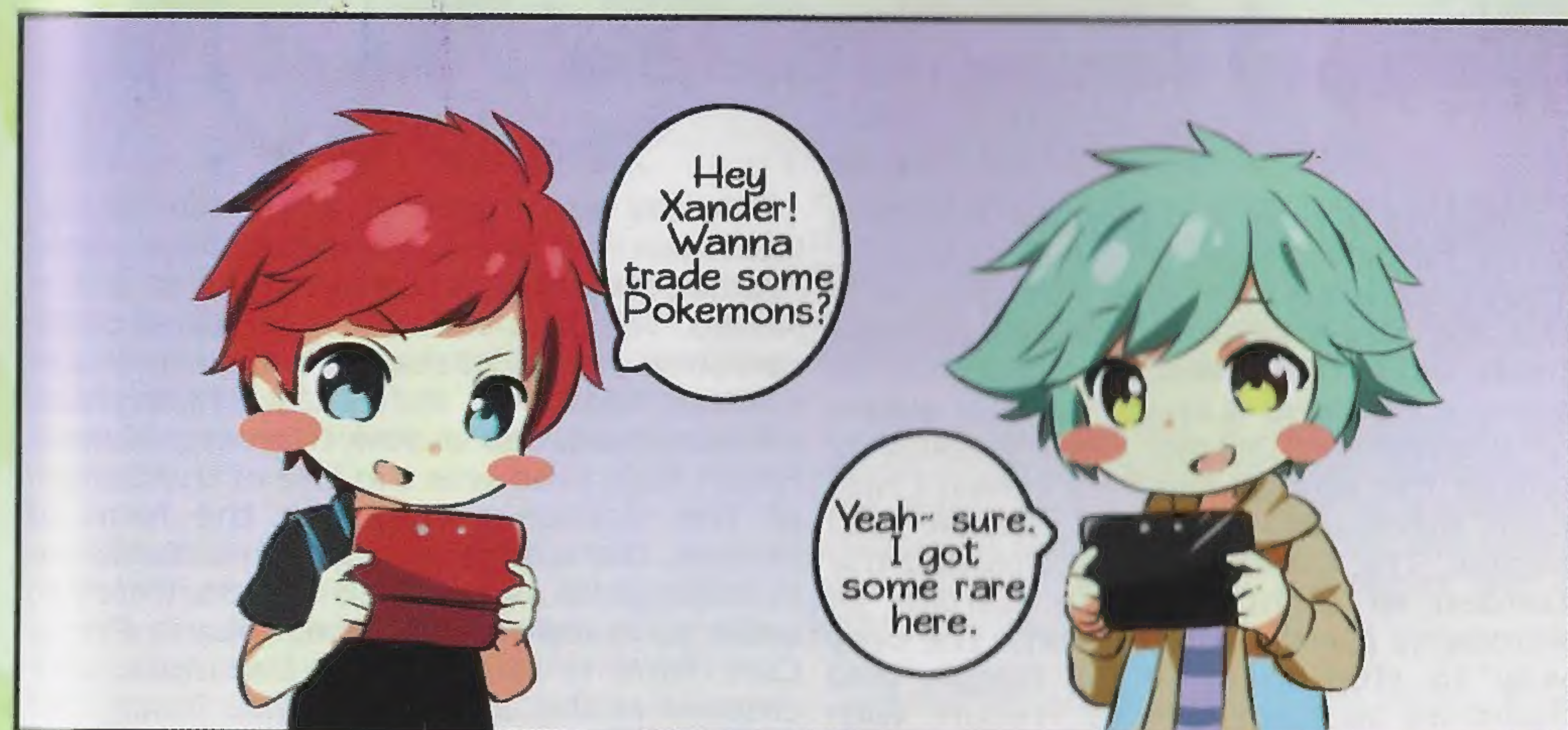
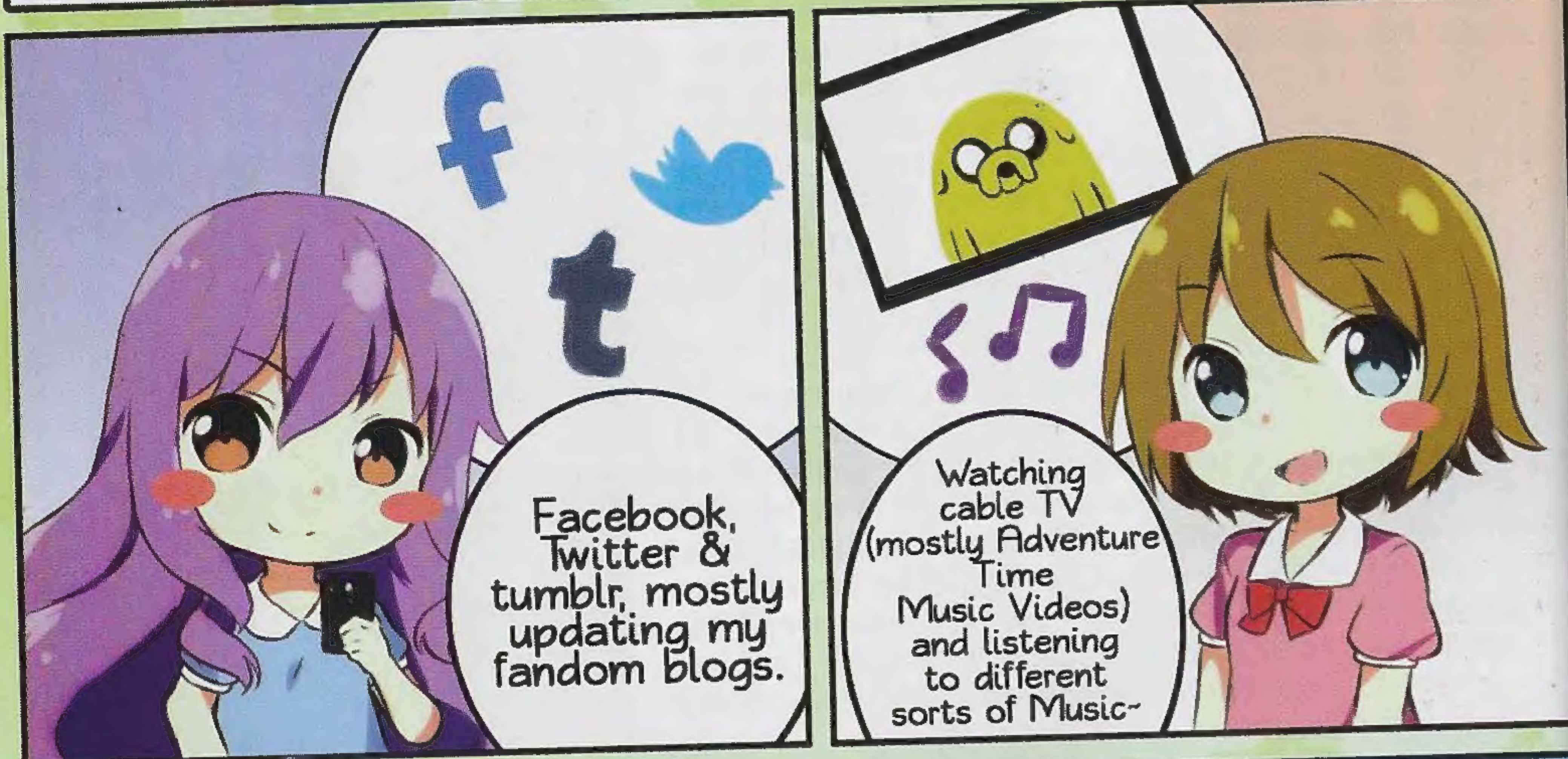
One day, Katie went home with a large and shaggy dog named Duke whom she adopted at the dog pound. Max became jealous of Katie's attention towards Duke and tried to get rid of him. Enraged by Max's attitude towards him, Duke tried to leave him into an alley way which turned to be an alley way for cats. The cats removed Max and Duke's collar which led the animal control into catching them.

Snowball, the gang leader of the Flushed Pets rescued them after pretending them to hate humans like the members of the gang. But eventually, Snowball found out from the cats that Max and Duke were domesticated pets which led the both dogs into escaping. Snowball vowed to kill them. Will Max and Duke be able to find their way home despite the animal control and the flushed pets is after them?

The Secret Life of Pets is an American 3D computer animated film produced by Illumination Entertainment and written by Brian Lynch, Cinco Paul and Ken Daurio. The movie was directed by Chris Renaud and co-directed by Yarrow Cheney. The movie also includes a mini movie which features the minions. The story is about them earning money to buy the blender that they've seen in a television show.



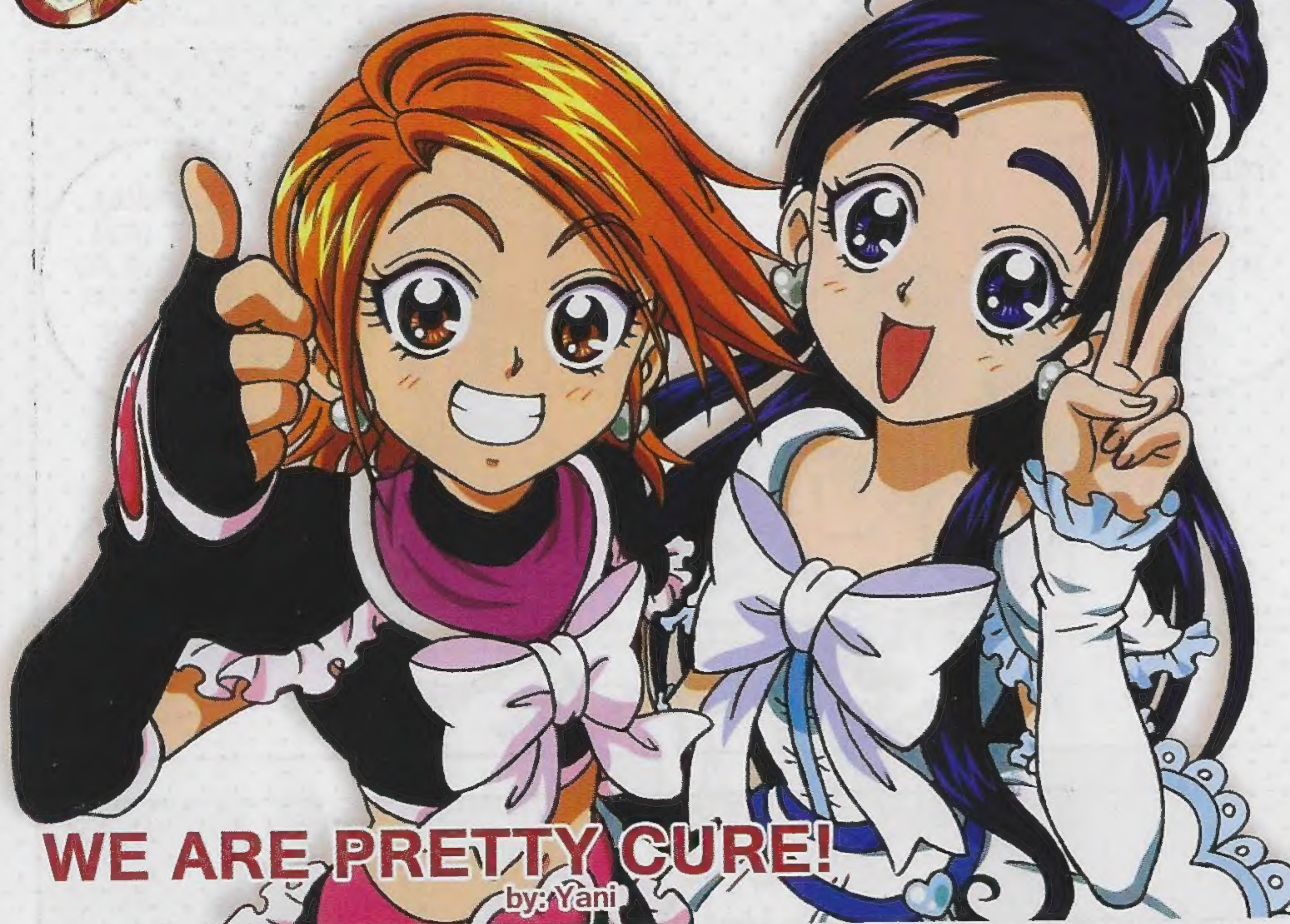
The Secret Life of Pets is an comedic adventure film that not only the kids will love but also the adults. The 3D animation is really good : from its graphics to the flow of the animation which makes it pleasant and exciting to watch. Another thing is you can see clearly their traits and personalities as a pet: how do they behave in real life. An example of this is the part where Chloe followed the red dot from the laser. This movie will not only give a good laugh but also lessons that can be applied in real life.



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#THROWBACK



WE ARE PRETTY CURE!

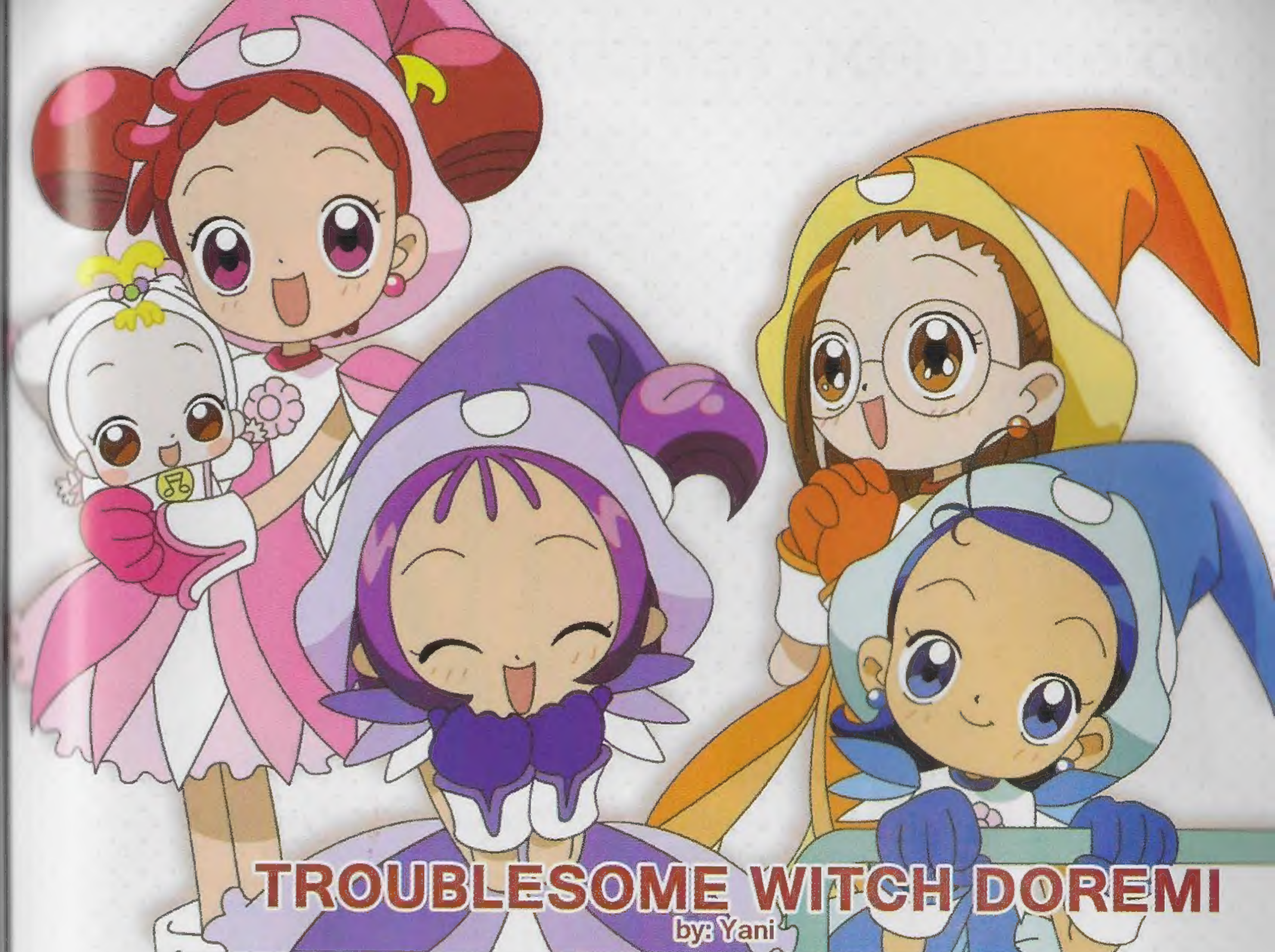
by: Yani

Nagisa Misumi and Honoka Yukishiro were students from Private Academy. They both excel with their field; Nagisa is the ace player of their school's lacrosse team while Yukishiro is a member of Science club and is known as the queen of knowledge. Despite their popularity within the school, the two haven't met each other until they met Mepple and Mipple. The Dark Zone has invaded the Garden of Light and the Garden of Rainbows (Earth) will be next. The only way to stop them is for Nagisa and Yukishiro to transform as Precure with the help of Mepple and Mipple.

Nagisa's alter ego is Cure Black and in this form, she is strong and passionate. Yukishiro's alter ego is Cure White and in this form, she is swift and graceful. Aside from defeating the forces of Dark Zone, they also must search for Prism Stones which will be placed in the Prism Hopish. Once they have found all the Prism Stones, it will repair all the damages done by the Dark Zone in the Garden of Light; where Mepple and Mipple lives.

Futari wa Pretty Cure is an anime television series produced by Toei Animation and directed by Daisuke Nishio. The first season had a total of 49 episodes. A second season was announced entitled Futari wa Pretty Cure Max Heart which introduced a new character named Hikari Kujo who was the Life of the Queen of The Garden of Light in the form of human. She will help Nagisa and Yukishiro in finding the 12 heartiels that scattered in order to restore the queen. Hikari's Pretty Cure form is called Shiny Luminous. She empowers the attacks of Cure Black and Cure White. The second season had a total of 47 episodes.

I'm a fan of magical girl anime since I was a kid but this anime was different among them. Why? aside from the magical transformation and magic that they use to fight the bad guys, this anime includes action combat scenes which were really good and pretty rare coming from a magical girl anime. This anime also reminds and teaches us that we can do better if we work and believe with our friends; the power of love and friendship is strong!



TROUBLESOME WITCH DOREMI

by: Yani

Witches: you do not know who are they, where can they be found or do they even exist? Yes they are, they are living here in the human world; together with us. The truth is they kept their identities in secret because if a human will learn that they are witches, something bad will happen.

Doremi loves reading books about witches and she uses the incantations she learned from it with her daily life. One day, she came across a mysterious shop named Maho-do which was owned by Majo Rika. She accused Majo Rika (which was true) and due to the curse placed on all witches, Majo Rika became a frog witch. Doremi has no choice but to become a witch apprentice. Doremi can return Majo Rika into normal if she will become a full-pledged witch. In order to become one, she must pass the 9 witch tests and while keeping secret from everyone that she is a witch apprentice.

She is later joined by her friends Hazuki Fujiwara and Aiko Seno. They will also encounter another witch apprentice

named Onpu Segawa who seem to be cold towards them. Will they be able to pass the 9 witch tests, return Majo Rika into normal and will they be able to become friends with Onpu?

Ojamajo Doremi is an magical girl anime series produced by Toei Animation. The anime series had a total of 4 seasons which was followed by an OVA. The series also released 2 movies, 2 mangas and 4 light novels.

Another great magical girl anime that was produced by Toei Animation. The thing that I really liked about this is that it looks colorful despite that they are witches; it is really catchy to look at. Another thing is that its somehow a musical anime where music is everywhere. An example of this is that they must be able to wear the witch costume before the music stops. I'm sure that most 90's kid knows this; this was viewed in the afternoon (the time when anime shows were still being viewed during this time). This is definitely one of the magical girl series that you must not miss watching.

NO NEED FOR TENCHI!!!

by: Reikisha



Harem is a very common plot element used in popular Japanese media nowadays. There are people who are starting to get bored of the same "indecisive male lead surrounded by cute girls" storyline and tends to avoid watching or drop the series after three episodes. The reason for that is because majority of them are focusing on the characters flirting with each other without making any progress, story-wise. Admittedly though, there are a handful of shows that are able to deliver a good storyline while having a huge number of girls flock over the male lead. But what happens if we mix harem with space adventure?

Let's go back to 1992: the year where the granddaddy of harem anime first aired in Japan. Tenchi Muyo! is a Japanese anime, light novel, and manga franchise. The first anime series was a 6-episode OVA titled Tenchi Muyo! Ryo-Ohki! created by Masaki Kajishima and Hiroki Hayashi, and was released on September 1992. Due to its extremely high popularity in Japan during that time, a seventh episode of the OVA and a stand-alone Tenchi Muyo! special was released. Along with with a few more OVAs, a total of four spin-off TV series was released in 1995 (Tenchi Universe),

1997 (Tenchi in Tokyo), 2002 (Tenchi Muyo! GXP), and 2014 (Ai Tenchi Muyo!) respectively. The Tenchi Muyo! franchise also have a total of three films released in 1996 to 1999.

For the Otafans who grew up in the 90's, the Tenchi series we're most familiar with is Tenchi Universe and Tenchi in Tokyo. It was aired in ABS-CBN around the same time as when You're Under Arrest and El Hazard was still in AXN's anime block. Tenchi Muyo! was the series that started the idea of having a single man attract as many women as he can as they embark on a great adventure. At the time, Tenchi Muyo!'s animation contain neither excessive violence nor nudity despite the show having suggestive themes. Thanks to that, it made the series safe for kids to watch.

For those who haven't seen Tenchi Muyo! yet even though they were born in the 90's, this might be the perfect chance for you to catch up on what you've been missing during your childhood. For the Millennials out there, this article looked more like a history lesson than a nostalgia trip. Still, if you're getting bored of the modern day harem anime formula, it won't hurt to add Tenchi Muyo! to your watchlist.



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